

Minutes of the Public Transport Committee Meeting held in Mauao Rooms, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Building, 87 First Avenue, Tauranga on Friday, 11 May 2018 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Chair: L Thurston

Councillors: P Thompson, J Nees, S Crosby, K Winters, A von Dadelszen

Appointees: Cr D Thwaites (Western Bay of Plenty District Council), Cr T Molloy (Tauranga City Council), Cr M Gould (Alternate, Rotorua Lakes Council)

In Attendance: Bay of Plenty Regional Council: Fiona McTavish (General Manager, Strategy & Science), Garry Maloney (Transport Policy Manager), Joe Metcalfe (Senior Transport Planner), Melissa Winters (Transport Operations Officer), Mike Furniss (Senior Transport Operations Officer), Jen Proctor (Transport Operations Officer), Simon Neate (Transport Marketing Advisor), Tone Nerdrum-Smith (Committee Advisor)

Councillors: D Love, J Cronin and T Marr

Other Attendees: Cr R Curach (Tauranga City Council), Cole O'Keefe (NZTA), Christine Jones (Tauranga City Council), Nicolas Reid, Gail Davies and Jenson Varghese (MR Cagney), Matt Hunt (Shine Public Relations)

Absent: Cr Tapsell (Rotorua Lakes Council)

Apologies: Chairman Leeder, N Bruning and Cr M Gould (Alternate, Rotorua Lakes Council) – Lateness.

1 **Apologies**

The Chair informed Members that he had been informally advised by the Mayor of Rotorua Lakes Council that Cr Tapsell was now the alternate appointee, and that Cr Gould had assumed the responsibility of the primary. Formal confirmation of this change was yet to be received.

Cr Nees, in the absence of Chairman Leeder, announced that Council had completed the Chief Executive recruitment process and she was pleased to advise appointment of Fiona McTavish, current General Manager, Strategy & Science, to the role.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 **Accepts the apologies tendered at the meeting from Chairman Leeder, N Bruning and Cr M Gould (Alternate, Rotorua Lakes Council) – lateness;**
- 2 **Agrees that Cr R Curach and Christine Jones (Tauranga City Council) be formally invited to sit at the table with the Committee Members.**

**Thurston/Thompson
CARRIED**

2 **Public Forum**

Refer PowerPoint presentation – Objective ID A2873651

Glen Crowther spoke to the PowerPoint presentation as follows:

Key Points

- Tauranga Transport Alignment Project (TTAP)
- Who is Endorsing this TTAP?
- Priority One supported TTAP in principle
- Urgent Action Needed
- Cars or Rapid Transit?
- 5 Point Plan
- Congestion Free PT Network
- Sought 'free' bus travel for school-age children to encourage increased use
- Funding
- Public Transport Funding
- A Golden Opportunity
- Provincial Growth Fund
- Or Congestion Free PT Network.

In Response to Questions

- There had been considerable discussion around the appropriate level of detail within the TTAP, with the decision being to provide a high level outline at this stage and for the individual councils to work on the more intricate details.
- Recognised that more public transport infrastructure/bus lanes would be required to make a difference to current congestion.
- Negativity associated with any increase in rates if school children travelled for free could be addressed through emphasising the positive effects; introduction of incentives for adult to use public transport etc.
- Options for increased use of public transport, e.g. introduction of targeted road charges, could be explored.
- Regional fuel tax should be further investigated as a funding opportunity.
- Suggested a bolder, more flexible pricing structure to increase public transport patronage.

Members' Comments

- Acknowledged the positive social impact of free bus travel for school children.

Anna Larsen provided a verbal presentation as follows:

Key Points

- Worked for the Welcome Bay Community Association, however was addressing the Committee as a private citizen

- Changes in driving patterns meant parents now took children to school on their way to work.
- Car travel could prove cheaper than the bus when you had several children.
- Being unable to pay for the bus was a real situation for many people, with children not going to school when there were no alternative means of transport.
- There was no schooling beyond primary level in Welcome Bay, which meant secondary students had to travel out of the suburb.
- Encouraged Council to obtain further socio-economic data in co-operation with schools and community groups to support the proposal for free student bus fares.
- Suggested a free school bus trial for approximately 18 months.

Attendance

Cr M Gould entered the meeting at 10:20 am.

3 General Business and Tabled Items

Noted *tabled item 1* – Letter from Chair Thurston to the Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education: Request for School Transport Assistance – Pāpāmoa, Tauranga.

4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Nil

5 Previous Minutes

5.1 Public Transport Committee Minutes - 9 February 2018

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 3 Confirms the Public Transport Committee minutes - 9 February 2018 with the following amendments:
 - Apologies: von Dadelszen & Thwaites remove 'for absence'
 - Cr Malloy change to Cr Molloy.

Winters/Thompson
CARRIED

5.2 Public Transport Technology

Melissa Winters (Transport Operations Officer) introduced the presenters Nicolas Reid, Gail Davies and Jenson Varghese (MR Cagney) who provided an update on progress with a real-time system and other technology projects.

Refer PowerPoint presentation – Objective ID A2873612

Key Points

- Study Objective
- Approach
- Key Strategic Questions
- Global Megatrends
- Megatrends

- Key Regional Challenges
- Drivers of PT Choice – Potential Users
- Fleet/Fuel Technologies
- Buses needed to be in the right place at the right time to be effective
- The Sharing Economy
- Shared services were convenient, accessible, personal and ‘real time’
- Mobile Apps
- On-Demand Buses – via Apps
- There were Apps that provided an ‘uber for buses’ functionality
- Mobility as a Service
- Transport is Changing
- Benefits for BOPRC
- Longer Term Recommendations.

In Response to Questions

- Frequency and ease of access would generally create a more attractive bus service.
- The millennium generation was more discerning, which translated to convenience, access and cost considerations, rather than environmental benefits.
- Wi-Fi on the buses was more of a nice-to-have than a need-to-have, especially on shorter commuter routes.

Members’ Comments

- ‘Uber buses’ might provide a higher level of flexibility than traditional public transport, especially for an aging population where mobility was an issue.
- Noted that the Transit App that advised where the buses were on the route had been in trial for some time and was being used by commuters.

Members received *tabled item 2* – information regarding how to access the Transit App.

Staff Follow-up

- Presentation regarding public transport alternative options and models in New South Wales to be provided to Members.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Public Transport Technology;**
- 2 Continues to endorse the provision of passenger Wi-Fi on Western Bay of Plenty Public Transport Blueprint bus services;**
- 3 Receives updates on new technology and its relativity to the Bay of Plenty.**

**Winters/Thompson
CARRIED**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11.02 am and reconvened at 11.20 am.

6 Reports

6.1 New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) Update

Cole O'Keefe (NZTA) updated the Committee on current New Zealand Transport Agency national and regional initiatives as follows:

Key Points

- Submission on the Investment Assessment Programme (IAF) would close on Friday, 18 May 2018. The IAF was a tool to prioritise the projects and initiatives to give effect to the Government Policy Statement (GPS).
- The 'liveable cities' concept related to the GPS.
- NZTA's regional programme was required to align with the priorities in the new GPS.
- There was at this stage only a high-level indication of prioritisation and further level of details was yet to be developed.
- Information regarding the national trial for mobility as a service was about to be finalised and updates would be provided at the next meeting of the Committee.

Members' Comments

- Concerned that the current priorities might not fully meet the provisions of the new GPS, yet 'starting again' would not necessarily be a better option.
- The new GPS had created a situation where NZTA and authorities were required to re-evaluate its projects and strategies to ensure they aligned with the amended priorities.

Christine Jones' (TCC) Comments

- TCC and BOPRC priorities fell within the parameters of the Public Transport Blue Print, and Stage 1 of this remained relatively unchanged.
- Public Transport scoping exercises would take place over the next few weeks and any short/medium/long term changes should be clearly identified.
- Further research would be undertaken once the finalised GPS had been presented.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, New Zealand Transport Agency Update.

Crosby/Nees
CARRIED

- 2 Identifies the implications of aligning the Western Bay of Plenty Public Transport Blueprint, Bay of Plenty Regional Public Transport Plan and Tauranga Programme Business Case to the 2018 Government Policy Statement on Land Transport, the Provincial Growth Fund and the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity.

Thompson/von Dadelszen
CARRIED

6.2 Regional Public Transport Plan Draft for Consultation

Refer PowerPoint presentation – Objective ID A2873467

Garry Maloney (Transport Policy Manager) and Joe Metcalfe (Senior Transport Planner) provided an update as follows:

Presenters' Key Points

- Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP)
- Editorial Corrections
- Significant Changes
- Process to Adopt
- Stakeholders to Consult
- Regional Land Transport Plan and the Long Term Plan would provide the funding mechanisms for the RPTP, which was an operational, rather than strategic, document
- Legislation prescribed a number of stakeholders Council was required to consult.
- Recognised the merit of establishing a policy around the use of pilots and trials to gauge the response of the community, however this had not been progressed as it might be too descriptive and limiting.

Members' Comments

- Sought an opportunity to provide comprehensive feedback prior to the Plan being released for consultation.
- Concerned that the document was relatively static and not reflective of the changing environment Council operated within.
- Council should be prepared for requests for public involvement in the consultation process.
- Suggested a review sooner than the three year timeframe stipulated by legislation.
- Public Transport was of high public interest and engagement with stakeholders was a key consideration.
- Cost/benefit analysis should include social impacts.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Regional Public Transport Plan Draft for Consultation;**
- 2 Notes that the document will be released for targeted consultation only, due to recent consultation on the Public Transport Blueprint, Long Term Plan, and Regional Land Transport Plan;**
- 3 Confirms that the consultation process outlined in this document is consistent with the Land Transport Management Act requirements and the Local Government Act principles of consultation;**
- 4 Approves the Draft Public Transport Plan for consultation with stakeholders.**

**Thurston/van Dadelszen
CARRIED**

6.3 Public Transport Blueprint - Progress Update / Western Bay Multi-Modal Transport System

Western Bay Multi-Modal Transport System

Refer PowerPoint presentation – Objective ID A2871972

Fiona McTavish (General Manager, Strategy & Science) and Garry Maloney (Transport Policy Manager) provided a presentation as follows:

Key Points

- Western Bay Multi-Modal Transport System
- An ever changing environment
- Delivery with new Government Direction
- Currently in Western Bay
- Aligned to new Government Direction
- Western Bay Multi-Modal Transport System Challenge
- Planned LTP Public Transport Funding
- PT Funding (10+ years)
- We are Partnering with Government to Address the Gaps
- Provincial Growth Fund
- Guiding Principles
- 'Surge Regions'
- Three Investment Tiers
- Enabling Infrastructure Projects
- Criteria
- How does WBOP multi-modal stack up?
- Recommendation.

Public Transport Blueprint - Progress Update

Refer PowerPoint presentation – Objective ID A2873469

Garry Maloney (Transport Policy Manager), Joe Metcalfe (Senior Transport Planner), Melissa Winters (Transport Operations Officer) and Mike Furniss (Senior Transport Operations Officer) provided a presentation as follows:

Key Points

- Blueprint Update
- Procurement
- Successful Tender Outcomes
- Variations to Blueprint network
- School Transport
- Interchange Facilities
- Service changes required
- LTP PT Investment
- Submission to TCC LTP
- Known Funding Gaps (0-10 years)
- Over the next three years
- PT Funding (10+ years)
- Other Funding Options.
- This was an update only and the Committee was not asked to endorse the Blueprint pre-LTP deliberations.

Christine Jones (Tauranga City Council)' Comments

- Design and safety aspects of bus interchanges meant construction and installation was taking longer than initially expected.

- The aim was to ensure long term solutions for the shelters, rather than temporary 'fixes'.
- Positive engagement with the community was paramount when considering public transport changes that would have an impact on private and neighbourhood environments.

Staff Follow-up

- Review the City Loop Service through the Gate Pa shops as part of the report-back at the next meeting of the Committee.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the presentation, Western Bay Multi-Modal Transport System;**
- 2 Agrees that the Regional Council, working with SmartGrowth partners:**
 - **Prioritise the components that comprise an effective Western Bay multi-modal transport system;**
 - **Which are unable to be funded from other investment streams; and**
 - **Submit an application to the Provincial Growth Fund to advance delivery of that system.**

**Thompson/Gould
CARRIED**

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Public Transport Blueprint - Progress update.**

**Molloy/Thwaites
CARRIED**

6.4 Free Transport for School Students

Refer PowerPoint presentation – Objective ID A2870165

Garry Maloney (Manager Transport Policy) and Melissa Winters (Transport Operations Officer) provided the following outline regarding outcomes sought from providing free school transport for students:

Key Points

- Why Make it Free
- Who Pays and How Much?
- Why Not Use the Bus
- Perception
- Bus vs Car Travel (per week)
- Primary Student Travel (AM)
- Secondary Student Travel (AM)
- Patronage Impact?
- Welcome Bay School Transport
- February 2018 Solution
- Primary Student Travel (PM)

- Secondary Student Travel (PM)
- Welcome Bay Costs
- Funding Models
- Is there a case for investment?

Members' Comments

- Suggested a staged approach and await the completion of the Hairini Bypass prior to making any changes to the school bus service.
- Cost of children's bus travel to and from school was a challenge for low income families.
- Encouraged a trial for free school bus travel in/out of Welcome Bay.

Christine Jones (Tauranga City Council)' Comments

- Modelling had been undertaken with regards to traffic movements and bus prioritisation.
- Was working with NZTA to make the northern slip-lane through the Hairini Roundabout a bus priority lane.
- The current Baypark to Bayfair (B2B) developments had diverted traffic to the Welcome Bay roundabout, which created significant congestion issues.
- Important to consider the wider network impacts and connectivity before altering bus services.
- All-day bus lane for Welcome Bay commuters was being investigated.
- Was considering opportunities to prioritise bus travel through Arataki/Golf Road and consultation would be undertaken once the Arataki Interchange location had been decided.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Free Transport for School Students.**

That the Public Transport Committee recommends that the Regional Council:

- 2 Agrees as part of 2018 – 2028 Long Term Plan deliberations continue to allocate additional budget of about \$100,000 in the 2018-19 financial year to further investigate the cost and benefits and wider implications of providing free school transport in Tauranga;**
- 3 Agrees to fast track an investigation to trial a school student fare-free Welcome Bay bus services, and that TCC and BOPRC consider allocating funding in their 2018 – 2028 Long Term Plans to implement a trial in 2018/19;**
- 4 Confirms that the decision has a medium level of significance as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. Council has identified and assessed different options and considered community views as part of making the decision, in proportion to the level of significance.**

**Thompson/von Dadelszen
CARRIED**

Adjournment / Attendance

The meeting adjourned at 1.20 pm and reconvened at 1.50 pm. Crs: A von Dadelszen and P Thompson withdrew from the meeting.

6.5 Request for Regional Education Bus Services

Joe Metcalfe (Senior Transport Planner) provided information in regard to a request received for regional bus services that would support tertiary education institutes, including the new University of Waikato campus.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Request for Regional Education bus services.

Winters/Gould
CARRIED

6.6 Request for Changes to Kawerau Bus Service

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Request for Changes to Kawerau Bus Service.

Gould/Crosby
CARRIED

6.7 Murupara Bus Service

Joe Metcalfe (Senior Transport Planner) and Jen Proctor (Transport Operations Officer) advised Members of the need to potentially change the Murupara bus service.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Murupara Bus Service.

Winters/Molloy
CARRIED

6.8 Maxi Taxis in the Eastern Bay of Plenty

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Maxi Taxis in the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

**Thurston/Thwaites
CARRIED**

6.9 Public Transport Promotional Activity

Refer Video presentation – Objective ID A2868510

Simon Neates (Transport Marketing Advisor) presented a video of recent and upcoming public transport promotional activities.

Key Points

- Current bus users would be targeted for promotion of the Transit App.
- The Transit App was well established and used in more than 150 cities across the world.
- Council partnered with the App providers and promotional activities, e.g. push notifications, could be developed .
- Was working with Rotorua regarding promotional opportunities for increased bus use, e.g. through the Rotorua Aquatics Centre and associated radio station.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Public Transport Promotional Activity.**

**Thurston/Nees
CARRIED**

6.10 Performance of Public Transport Services for July 2017 to March 2018

Melissa Winters (Transport Operations Officer), Mike Furniss (Senior Transport Operations Officer) and Jen Proctor (Transport Operations Officer) responded to questions of the report.

Key Points

- As not all data from the Ōhope and KatiKati service was available, the information provided had a recognised margin of error.
- Was actively looking at ways to improve the service provided, and all complaints were taken seriously.
- Delays could have a number of causes, e.g. mechanical issues or heavy loadings (i.e. high number of passengers).
- A plan for the Ōmokoroa/KatiKati bus service was being investigated in conjunction with the Public Transport Blueprint.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Performance of Public Transport Services for July 2017 to March 2018.**

**Thurston/Nees
CARRIED**

Attendance

Cr Thompson entered the meeting at 2.09 pm.

6.11 Other Matters of Interest

Garry Maloney (Transport Policy Manager) provided an outline of the report.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Other Matters of Interest.**

**Thurston/Thwaites
CARRIED**

6.12 Public Excluded Section

Resolved

Resolution to exclude the public

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General Subject of Matter to be Considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to this matter	Grounds under Section 48(1) LGOIMA 1987 for passing this resolution
Public Excluded Public Transport Committee minutes – 9 February 2018	Please refer to the relevant clause in the open meeting minutes.	Good reason for withholding exists under Section 48(1)(a).
Regional Integrated Ticketing System Update	To carry out commercial and industrial negotiations	Good reason for withholding exists under Section 48(1)(a)
Waihi Beach Service Update	To protect the commercial position of an individual	Good reason for withholding exists under Section 48(1)(a)

Thurston/Nees

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 2.20 pm

Confirmed

Chair - Public Transport Committee

Date