

Minutes of the Public Transport Committee Meeting held in Mauao Rooms, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Building, 87 First Avenue, Tauranga on Thursday, 23 November 2017 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: L Thurston

Deputy Chairman: N Bruning

Councillors: P Thompson, S Crosby, K Winters

Appointees: T Molloy (Tauranga City Council)

In Attendance: F McTavish (General Manager Strategy & Science), G Maloney (Transport Policy Manager), J Metcalfe (Senior Transport Planner), M Furniss (Senior Transport Operations Officer), M Winters, J Proctor (Transport Operations Officers), S Neate (Transport Marketing Officer), C Cassidy (Senior Transport Planner, Tauranga City Council), I Herbert (Programme Manager), NZ Transport Agency: A Talbot (Lead Strategic Planner), C O'Keefe (Principal Planning Advisor); M Hunt (Senior Communications Consultant, Shine Public Relations), S Kameta (Committee Advisor)

Attendance in part: Cr D Love (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), Public Forum speakers: K Bern, First Union representatives: L Usher, A Matthews

Apologies: Chairman D Leeder, Crs: A von Dadelszen, J Nees (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), D Thwaites (Western Bay of Plenty District Council), M Gould (Alternate, Rotorua Lakes Council)

Absent: T Tapsell (Rotorua Lakes Council)

1 Apologies

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Accepts the apologies of Chairman Leeder, Crs: D Thwaites, A von Dadelszen, J Nees and M Gould tendered at the meeting.

Thurston/Thompson
CARRIED

2 General Business and Tabled Items

There were no late items tabled.

2.1 General Business

The following items were raised for discussion:

- 1) Welcome Bay/Fifteenth Avenue/Turret Road – Service mitigation
- 2) Tauranga City Council Notice of Motion
- 3) Stuff Article “Is it a battery? Is it a scooter? No, it’s an app” – was circulated for information (*refer Tabled Document 1*).

3 Public Forum

3.1 First Union – A living wage for bus drivers

Refer Tabled Document 2.

First Union delegate Alan Mathews provided and read a written submission on behalf of Go Bus Drivers’ First Union members, which raised issues with the current Public Transport Operating Model (PTOM) system and requested that PTOM based tender documents be revised to include an annual wage-rise for Go Bus drivers of at least 5% plus cost price index (CPI) until at least 2020.

Mr Mathews noted there were factual errors within the submission and a revised copy would be provided. He informed a wage rise would benefit bus drivers significantly and noted comparisons to heavy vehicle driver salaries and the difficulties in retaining drivers within the public transport sector.

It was noted that First Union delegates were informed prior to the meeting that the NZ Transport Agency had approved the Western Bay of Plenty Bus service contracts for tender and that any decisions made by Central Government on the living wage and changes in CPI would flow through to the Regional Council, with any future cost impacts to be considered through the Long Term Plan.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 **Receives the Go Bus Drivers’ First Union Members submission referencing the Public Transport Operating Model (PTOM).**

**Bruning/Molloy
CARRIED**

The Chairman advised that Brigid McDonald had informed she was unable to attend and speak and that another member of the public, Karen Bern had requested to speak.

3.2 Karen Bern – Ballintoy Park Drive Bus Service Review

Karen Bern was opposed to the extension of the Welcome Bay bus service into Ballintoy Park Drive and spoke of the negative repercussions it would have on residents, including increased traffic, noise and exhaust emission levels from buses

driving up the street's steep incline. She considered that the current light patronage would not increase significantly from the extension and noted her support for a turn bay on Waikite Road, which she advised was already being used by a truck and trailer and school bus.

The Chairman thanked Ms Bern for her address and asked that staff inform her and Ms Brigid McDonald of the outcome of decisions that would be considered later in the meeting in regard to the Ballintoy Park Drive bus service extension.

4 **Declaration of conflicts of interest**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

5 **Previous Minutes**

5.1 **Public Transport Committee minutes - 25 August 2017**

Correction

Minute item 8.1, agenda page 17: Public Forum Item Glen Crowther – Sustainable Business Network:

1. Amend last sentence in the first paragraph to read as follows:

He believed the Government's target for reducing emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030 did not go far enough, but that even 30% required a much bigger investment in public transport than what was proposed, which still would not allow for increased congestion from projected population growth.

2. Amend last sentence in third paragraph to read as follows:

He considered all external costs (such as environmental externalities) had not been factored in appropriately and that public transport should be heavily subsidised through taxes and rates, as increased user pays would unlikely work.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 **Confirms the Public Transport Committee Minutes of 25 August 2017 as a true and correct record, with the foregoing correction.**

**Bruning/Molloy
CARRIED**

6 **Reports**

6.1 **New Zealand Transport Agency Update**

Transport Agency Lead Strategic Planner Alistair Talbot updated the Committee on the following initiatives and activities:

- 1) The draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport (GPS) was programmed to be released prior to the end of the year. The timeline for RLTP submissions and NLTP development had been revised to provide Councils an extended window to review their RLTPs in light of the redrafted GPS. RLTPs

were now to be submitted to the Transport Agency by 30 June 2018 with the NLTP to be adopted on 31 August 2018.

- 2) In terms of the GPS development, Minister Twyford's letter identified some priorities may require more fundamental changes to the GPS, which would not be part of the draft GPS 2018. Exploring new funding models for rail was one example, which would be considered in the second tranche of the GPS.
- 3) The Regional Advisory Group had been asked to consider a study on passenger rail from Rotorua to Auckland and that the Tauranga Business case would consider the direction to be taken on passenger rail as part of its 30 year outlook.

Discussion noted that at a recent UNISA meeting, the Ministry of Transport would be tasked with undertaking a National Port study. In regard to National rail priorities, comment was made that regional short-term focus would be on freight with passenger rail a focus for Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

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

**Thompson/Winters
CARRIED**

6.2 Tauranga Programme Business Case

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2746683.

Programme Manager Ian Herbert presented an overview of the Tauranga Programme Business Case and progress towards implementing the Tauranga Transport Plan to inform investment decisions over the next 30 years.

Mr Herbert acknowledged the programme was ambitious, but would assist the urban design strategy, share direction with the Western Bay Blueprint and be adaptable to the GPS on Land Transport. The project scope would focus on the city centre, growth nodes and transport solutions for the city network and sub-regional connections.

Further information was requested in regard to the connections between the Tauranga Programme and the Western Bay Blueprint, including overall investment planned between cycling and passenger transport, potential passenger shifts and demographic information in relation to commercial and non-commercial transport.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report, Tauranga Programme Business Case.**

**Thurston/Bruning
CARRIED**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am and reconvened at 11:06 am.

6.3 **Public Transport Blueprint - Progress update**

Refer Movie Clip and PowerPoint Presentation Objective IDs A2747703, A2747762.

Staff gave an update on progress made with the Public Transport Blueprint. Members were informed that the Transport Activities Procurement Strategy and Blueprint Business Case had both been approved by the NZ Transport Agency and the tenders had subsequently been released onto the government tendering site on Tuesday 21 November. It was noted that the tender evaluation panel would comprise both internal and external staff. The panel would also call on the services of an external probity auditor.

A movie clip showed an explanatory model of the Public Transport Blueprint for public release in due course. Members were advised that communications would increase closer to implementation and that information would be made available on Regional Council's website.

Audio visual promotion of the Blueprint on buses and collaboration with Council's partners on carbon emission targets were raised for consideration. Regarding potential disruptions to the public that may arise from the parking review planned in mid-2018, a plan for continual review, communication and mitigation was requested.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

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

**Winters/Thompson
CARRIED**

6.4 **Decision to introduce bus services to Ballintoy Park Drive**

The report sought a decision on whether to introduce bus services to Ballintoy Park Drive, Welcome Bay. Advice was provided that Tauranga City Council was willing to invest in the necessary infrastructure from their existing budget.

Members supported Option 2, to run the service through Ballintoy Park Drive for a 12 month trial period, commencing in December 2018. It was considered Option 2 would best serve the primary goal of improving bus patronage, noting that residents' feedback was fairly matched and that the introduction of hybrid-electric buses may mitigate diesel and noise issues, with the service being reviewed following the trial period.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Decision to introduce bus services to Ballintoy Park Drive.**
- 2 Adopts Option 2 - to run the service through Ballintoy Park Drive for a 12 month trial period, commencing in December 2018.**

**Bruning/Crosby
CARRIED**

6.5 Bayfair to Baypark Construction Mitigation Measures

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2747647

Senior Transport Planner Joe Metcalfe outlined the proposed options and measures to mitigate the impact of the Bayfair to Baypark construction works along State Highway 2 Tauranga.

The need for consideration of how costs were allocated between the construction project and proposed initiatives was raised. Comment was made that the Transport Agency should look at paying a fair contribution as the exacerbator. It was noted that investigation works would look at bus priority measures, including the Golf Link Road.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Bayfair to Baypark Construction Mitigation Measures.**
- 2 Endorses the proposed mitigation measures as described in the report that will:**
 - a. Reduce the impact of Bay Link construction works on existing bus services;**
 - b. Greatly enhance the quality and speed of the bus service between Papamoa East and the Tauranga CBD; and**
 - c. Reduce private vehicle demand during the Bay Link construction period to alleviate congestion.**
- 3 Directs staff to further investigate funding opportunities for mitigation measures with Tauranga City Council and the New Zealand Transport Agency.**
- 4 Notes that any funding allocated to Bayfair to Baypark mitigation measures is unbudgeted in the 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial year.**

That the Public Transport Committee recommend that the Regional Council:

- 5 Considers implementing the proposed mitigation measures as described in the “Bayfair to Baypark Construction Mitigation Measures” report at the February 2018 Council Meeting, at which time staff will have been able to further investigate joint-funding opportunities with partners Tauranga City Council and the New Zealand Transport Agency.**

**Crosby/Molloy
CARRIED**

6.6 Regional Fare Review - Patronage Services

The report asked the Committee to make decisions on the regional fare policy as part of the review of the Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP). Transport Policy Manager Garry Maloney clarified the loss in revenue and changes in fares would be considered through the Long Term Plan (LTP) and that consultation on the RPTP would run alongside the LTP process.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Regional Fare Review - Patronage Services;
- 2 Agrees to the key outcome for this Regional Public Transport Plan review is to increase patronage in an affordable way;
- 3 Agrees to progress more equitable fares across the region by introducing fare concessions in Rotorua, which will result in an increase to the adult cash fare to \$2.80 per trip and standardising the smartcard discount to 20% of the cash fare for the Rotorua urban bus service from July 2018;
- 4 Agrees to retain the status quo for fares for the Tauranga urban bus service until the next review of fares/fare policy;
- 5 Agrees as part of the Regional Public Transport Plan review to amend current fare policy to reflect the decisions above;
- 6 Notes that these proposed changes will be consulted on in early 2018.

Thompson/Winters
CARRIED

6.7 Regional Public Transport Plan Review

Senior Transport Planner Joe Metcalfe outlined progress made towards the Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP) review. He advised that a hearing of submissions to the RPTP would be heard by the Committee in 2018, with timing to be confirmed

Consideration for a policy objective on intensification of urban areas was requested, along with further information to be provided at the next meeting on technology changes for total mobility.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Regional Public Transport Plan Review.

Winters/Thurston
CARRIED

6.8 Performance of Public Transport Services for July to October 2017

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2745316.

A presentation was provided on the performance of the Council's contracted bus services for the period July to October 2017. Staff noted the patronage decline in Tauranga and Rotorua and interim interventions being considered to lift patronage trends.

It was noted that improving bus priority and reliability would be critical and that part of the proposed Western Bay Blueprint cost would support bus priority. It was requested that staff discuss patronage decline issues with Priority One to look at ways for employers to incentivise employees onto buses.

Anecdotal advice noted that Trustpower's initiative on introducing a cycling policy within the workplace was achieving reasonable success with employees.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

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

**Winters/Bruning
CARRIED**

6.9 Public Transport Promotional Activity

Refer Movie Clip Objective ID A2745316

Transport Marketing Advisor Simon Neate showed a compilation of public transport promotional campaigns run in 2017 and those planned for 2018.

Members considered campaigns planned for 2018 were a great initiative however, queried the negative effects of its timing in advance of implementing the Western Bay Blueprint. Staff noted there was some risk, but considered action and promotion was needed now and could be allayed as part of planned communications.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

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

**Thurston/Bruning
CARRIED**

6.10 Technology Update

The report informed of progress made on technology initiatives that were currently underway. It was noted that indicative timeframes anticipated rollout of the Regional Integrated Ticketing System across the region in May 2018 and that Management Accountant Team Leader Andy Dixon would be providing finance support for the consortium.

In regard to the passenger wifi trial that was to commence in Tauranga, staff advised they would be discussing potential opportunities for trialling wifi on Rotorua buses with the Rotorua contractor.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Technology Update.**

**Crosby/Winters
CARRIED**

6.11 Other Matters of Interest

The report informed the Committee of matters of interest not elsewhere reported. Transport Operations Officer Jen Proctor noted the withdrawal of Toi Ohomai from contract arrangements was a result of their funding constraints and that alternative options were being discussed.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

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

**Thompson/Molloy
CARRIED**

Order of Business

With the leave of the Committee, the Chairman announced that General Business items would be discussed next, prior to public excluded items.

7 **General Business**

7.1 **Turret Road/Fifteenth Ave/Welcome Bay Service Mitigation**

A query was raised regarding the road widening works at Welcome Bay roundabout and Turret Road/Fifteenth Avenue and whether any initiative could be investigated to relieve impacts on traffic. Staff advised they would pursue the matter with Tauranga City Council.

7.2 **Tauranga City Council Notice of Motion**

Councillor Terry Molloy provided background on a notice of motion that he put to the Tauranga City Council Meeting on 21 November 2017 that proposed a range of options for TCC staff to investigate to address parking issues and encourage pedestrians back into the CBD.

8 **Public Excluded Section**

With the leave of the Committee, the Chairman permitted NZ Transport Agency, council staff representatives and communications consultant Mr M Hunt to remain during consideration of the public excluded items.

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
7.1 Public Excluded Public Transport Committee Minutes - 25 August 2017	Please refer to the relevant clause in the open meeting minutes.	Good reason exists for withholding under Section 48(1)(a).
7.2 Eastern Bay of Plenty bus service matters	To protect the commercial position of an individual.	Good reason exists for withholding under Section 48(1)(a).

**Winters/Thompson
CARRIED**

9 Closing remarks

The Chairman acknowledged the work and efforts of Regional Council, Tauranga City Council and NZ Transport Agency staff, which was supported by the members.

The meeting closed at 12:53pm.