

Minutes of the Public Transport Committee Meeting held in Council Meeting Room One, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, 5 Quay Street, Whakatāne on Friday, 17 February 2017 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: L Thurston

Deputy Chairman: N Bruning

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

Appointees: Councillors T Tapsell (Rotorua Lakes Council), D Thwaites (Western Bay of Plenty District Council) and T Molloy (Tauranga City Council)

In Attendance: G Crowther (Bay of Plenty Sustainable Business Network), A Talbot (NZTA), C Cassidy (Tauranga City Council), Councillors J Cronin and D Love, S Craig (Manager Communications), E Fairburn (Summer Student), M Furniss (Transport Operations Officer), J Graham (Group Manager Corporate Solutions), M McLaren (Total Mobility Coordinator), F McTavish (Group Manager Strategy & Science), G Maloney (Manager Transport Policy), J Metcalfe (Senior Transport Planner), S Neate (Transport Marketing Advisor), J Proctor (Transport Operations Officer), S Cubbon (Committee Advisor)

Apologies: Councillor S Crosby, Ex Officio member - Chairman D Leeder. Councillor T Tapsell (for lateness)

1 Order of business

Committee Chair, Councillor Lyall Thurston drew attention to a letter received from John Evans and noted that the issues raised were employment-related between the contractor's employees and contractor.

The Coordinator of Bay of Plenty Sustainable Business Network, Glen Crowther was in attendance to address the Committee in Public Forum. In response to a request from a member, the Chairman agreed this presentation should be received prior to Agenda item 6.3, Adoption of the Western Bay of Plenty Public Transport Blueprint Programme Business Case.

2 Declaration of conflicts of interest

There were none declared.

3 Public Transport Subcommittee minutes - 24 August 2016

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Confirms¹ the Public Transport Subcommittee minutes - 24 August 2016.**

**Bruning/Thurston
CARRIED**

4 Public Transport Workshop - Western Bay Public Transport Blueprint - 7 December 2016

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the Public Transport Workshop report - Western Bay Public Transport Blueprint - 7 December 2016.**

**Nees/Thurston
CARRIED**

5 Public Transport Committee Workshop - 01 February 2017

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the Public Transport Committee Workshop report - 01 February 2017.**

**Thurston/Nees
CARRIED**

6 New Zealand Transport Agency Update

Acting Planning Investment Manager, Alastair Talbot, was in attendance to answer questions arising from the New Zealand Transport Agency Quarterly Report which had also been presented to the Regional Transport Committee in December 2016.

Mr Talbot also provided information on the NZTA's Long Term Strategic View, a draft document setting out the Agency's view of the land transport system, the priority challenges and opportunities faced and the interventions needed to enhance it. As a first step towards developing a shared view of the future of transport in New Zealand, a lot of analysis had been used that helped develop a sector view.

Members looked forward to more detail being provided that included areas of concern such as city congestion.

¹ See amendment Item 6.1 Public Transport Committee Meeting 5 May 2017.

Fiona McTavish, General Manager Strategy & Science, provided an update on the introduction of the Regional Consortium Interim Ticketing solutions. Ms McTavish had just returned from meeting with members with the Consortium Governance Group. A paper would be presented to the Regional Council at its March meeting and members were advised this would be a significant investment for Councils and NZTA.

It was acknowledged the region's public transport was in catch up mode and Councillors noted a lot of governing bodies would be involved. Claire Cassidy, Transport Planner was asked to provide input on behalf of Tauranga City Council and she advised they were working on smaller bits of work and aware of the need to take an holistic view across the whole of the network.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

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

**Thurston/Thompson
CARRIED**

7 Performance of Public Transport Services for July to December 2016

Transport Policy Manager, Garry Maloney presented the report explaining the performance of the individual regional public transport services. There had been zero Inflation for the year ending September 2016, and the price of fuel remained which will have contributed to lower patronage, particularly for Rotorua Cityride. The drop would also be due in part to an increase in fares over the last two years.

Members questioned the 11% drop in Rotorua Cityride patronage despite more buses operating. Mr Maloney explained the additional buses did not translate into greater trips above that timetabled.

Attendance

Councillor Tapsell attended the meeting at 10.10am.

It was requested that future reporting include qualitative data about major urban services such as the number and theme of complaints received and on-time² performance.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Performance of Public Transport Services for July to December 2016;**
- 2 Requests the provision of qualitative data to be provided to the Committee on a monthly basis, including mystery shopper complaints and performance of bus services to time.**

² See amendment Item 6.1 Public Transport Committee Meeting 5 May 2017.

**Thurston/Thompson
CARRIED**

8 **Public Forum**

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Obj. Ref. A2548190

Glen Crowther, the Bay of Plenty Coordinator for the Tauranga Sustainable Business Network addressed the Committee setting out the Vision for Smart Transport both nationally and within the Bay of Plenty region, especially Tauranga and the Western Bay.

9 **Adoption of the Western Bay of Plenty Public Transport Blueprint Programme Business Case**

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Obj. Ref. A2549249

This report sought the adoption of the Western Bay Public Transport Blueprint Programme Business Case to set the direction for investment in public transport infrastructure, services and policy for the next ten years. Garry Maloney noted there had been significant engagement with stakeholders and adoption of the Business Case today would enable detailed network design, but in no way preclude the inclusion of other options. Members expressed preference for the option of a 'High Performance Plus Network'.

Councillors noted their appreciation of the collaborative work undertaken amongst staff in preparing the business case and Communications Manager, Sue-Ellen Craig spoke of progress on the media pack clarifying the roles and responsibilities of partners.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Adoption of the Western Bay of Plenty Public Transport Blueprint Programme Business Case.**
- 2 Adopts the Western Bay Public Transport Blueprint Programme Business Case including the strategic option of a 'High Performance Plus Network', as a guiding document for development of public transport services, infrastructure and policy for the next ten-years for the purposes of further community engagement.**
- 3 Seeks the adoption of the Western Bay Public Transport Blueprint Programme Business Case by the other Blueprint partners (New Zealand Transport Agency, Tauranga City and Western Bay of Plenty District Councils).**
- 4 Notes that the adoption of the Western Bay Public Transport Blueprint Programme Business Case does not at this stage represent a financial commitment by the Council above that in the approved Long Term Plan, but does provide strategic guidance on future financial decisions.**
- 5 Notes that the adoption of the Western Bay Public Transport Blueprint Programme Business Case does not preclude the Council from making investments outside of the Blueprint programme.**

- 6 Notes the importance of exemplar community engagement and multiple voices are important.
- 7 Notes that partners are working on an integrated engagement processes to achieve exemplar community engagement.

**Bruning/Thwaites
CARRIED**

10 **Proposed variation to Regional Public Transport Plan Contracting Units**

A draft variation on contracting units for the western Bay of Plenty sub-region for inclusion in the Regional Public Transport Plan for consultation was agreed to by members. This would meet legislative requirements in order to change contracting units and improve outcomes from the tender of Western Bay services.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report, Proposed variation to Regional Public Transport Plan Contracting Units;**
- 2 **Endorses for consultation, the proposed variation to the Regional Public Transport Plan of the unit structures identified as Option One in the report, Proposed variation to Regional Public Transport Plan Contracting Units.**

**Winters/von Dadelszen
CARRIED**

11 **Bike Racks on Tauranga Buses**

The report sought a decision to require bike racks on Tauranga buses from the start of the next contract or contracts in July 2018. Some members were in favour of an immediate introduction on a limited trial scale and the Transport Policy Manager explained the reasons why a trial of bike racks, even for a short time, was not recommended.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report, Bike Racks on Tauranga Buses;**
- 2 **Not introduce bike racks on buses at this time, but consider their introduction as part of approving the Western Bay Public Transport Blueprint.**

**Molloy/Nees
CARRIED**

It is noted for the record that Councillor Thompson voted **AGAINST** the resolution.

12 **Future of Trial Rural Services**

The future of the two trial rural bus services, Waihi Beach to Tauranga and Ruatāhuna to Rotorua, that had been agreed through the current Long Term Plan consultation, was discussed. These trials had been budgeted for the years 2015/16 and 2016/17. Members were asked to recommend the services were included in the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Future of Trial Rural Services;**

That the Public Transport Committee recommend that the Regional Council:

- 2 Approves the continuation the Waihi Beach trial bus service for 2017/18; at a net additional cost to Council of \$11,000, and includes it in the Annual Plan 2017/18.**
- 3 Approves the continuation of the Ruatahuna to Rotorua bus service for the life of the Rotorua contract at a net cost to Council of \$18,000 and include it in the Annual Plan 2017/18.**

**Winters/von Dadelszen
CARRIED**

13 **Proposed response to Te Puke commuter service overloading**

Transport Operations Officer, Jen Proctor spoke to the report recommending an additional morning trip from Te Puke to address regular overloading on the existing 7:45am service departure, along with an additional afternoon service. She set out the options considered and the anticipated (unbudgeted) cost of the preferred option. Members approved this additional service, noting it would start in the next two weeks.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Proposed response to Te Puke commuter service overloading;**
- 2 Approves an additional morning express service from Te Puke to Tauranga and an additional afternoon express service from Tauranga to Te Puke to be through to the end of the contract in July 2018 to be funded from savings in the existing budget.**
- 3 Notes that those savings have resulted from removing an unpatronised portion of Route 81 (Omokoroa to Tauranga) from Wharf Street to the Lakes in Tauranga.**

Nees/von Dadelszen

CARRIED**14 Progressing Free Public Transport to and from Schools**

The issue of making transport to school across the region fare-free on the Council's contracted bus services had arisen at Council's Annual Plan Workshop on 3 February 2017. The Transport Policy Manager advised he was not aware of any other areas operating successful free public transport to and from schools. An accurate estimate of the number of children currently using Council's contracted bus services was not available, but loss of fare revenue was likely to be in the vicinity of \$1.6 million per annum. Mr Maloney also pointed out there could be questions of equity and passenger capacity issues on buses resulting in further loss of fare revenue.

Members of the Committee regarded there was an obligation to provide safe transport to and from school.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Progressing Free Public Transport to and from Schools.**
- 2 Requests that progressing safe, free public transport to and from schools be considered as part of the Regional Fare Review Process.**

**Bruning/Molloy
CARRIED**

15 Public Excluded Section**Resolution to exclude the public**

That the Public Transport Committee:

Excludes the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

15.1 Public Excluded Public Transport Subcommittee minutes – 24 August 2016**Grounds**

Good reason for withholding exists under section 48(1)(a)..

Reason

To enable the local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology Student Fare Concessions**Grounds**

Good reason for withholding exists under section 48(1)(a).

Reason

to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

**Thurston/Bruning
CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 12.40am at the conclusion of Public Excluded reporting.