

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

Present:

Chairman: L Thurston

Appointees: S Crosby, J Nees, K Winters, A von Dadelszen, P Thompson, D Thwaites (Western Bay of Plenty District Council), T Molloy (Tauranga City Council)

Attendance via video conference: N Bruning, M Gould (Alternate, Rotorua Lakes Council)

In Attendance: Councillor R Curach (Tauranga City Council), D Phizacklea (Acting General Manager Strategy & Science), G Maloney (Transport Policy Manager), J Metcalfe (Senior Transport Policy Planner), M Furniss (Senior Transport Operations Officer), S Kameta (Committee Advisor), C Cassidy (Senior Transport Planner, Tauranga City Council), C O'Keefe (New Zealand Transport Agency); Attendance in part (via video conference): Councillor J Cronin.

Apologies: T Tapsell (Rotorua Lakes Council); for lateness: P Thompson.

1 Opening announcement

The Chairman advised that Tauranga City Councillor Rick Curach was in attendance and sought leave from the Committee to invite Councillor Curach to sit at the table and be given speaking rights.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Invites Councillor Rick Curach to sit at the table and be given speaking rights at the meeting.

von Dadelszen/Winters
CARRIED

2 Apologies

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Accepts the apology from Councillor Tapsell and the apology for lateness from Councillor Thompson tendered at the meeting.

**Thurston/Thwaites
CARRIED**

3 **General Business and Tabled Items**

Nil.

4 **Public Forum**

The Chairman advised that Mr Allan Matthews was unable to attend the meeting, but wished to reschedule his Public Forum address to a later time.

5 **Declaration of conflicts of interest**

Nil declared.

6 **Previous Minutes**

6.1 **Public Transport Committee minutes - 17 February 2017**

Corrections

Page 12 of the agenda – amend resolution from ‘Receives’ to ‘Confirms the Public Transport Subcommittee minutes – 24 August 2016’.

Page 13 of the agenda, Minute Item 7, third paragraph – amend ‘o-time’ to ‘on-time’.

Matters arising

Minute item 11 (page 15 of the agenda) – Information was requested on the overall context and uptake rate of bike racks in other regions, which was noted by staff.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Confirms the minutes of the Public Transport Committee Meeting held on 17 February 2017, with the foregoing corrections.**

**von Dadelszen/Winters
CARRIED**

Attendance

Councillor Thompson entered the meeting at 9:45 am.

7 **Reports**

7.1 **Performance of Public Transport Services for July 2016 to March 2017**

The report provided an update on the performance of Council's contracted bus services from July 2016 to March 2017.

Members expressed a desire for service delays to be reduced and raised questions about driver behaviour and customer service.

Further information was requested by members on Performance Reporting to include:

- data trends from previous months;
- comparison with past complaints; and
- service delays under 20 minutes

Real-time electronic information was identified as a key aspect that was needed for Tauranga, which would be investigated and addressed in the coming years.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Performance of Public Transport Services for July 2016 to March 2017.**

**Crosby/Thompson
CARRIED**

Change to order of business

With the leave of the Committee, the Chairman advised that agenda item 6.2, 'Western Bay of Plenty Public Transport Blueprint - Proposed Network for Public Engagement' would be deferred until later in the meeting.

7.2 Variation to Regional Public Transport Plan

The report sought approval from the Committee to a variation to the Regional Public Transport Plan, following consultation with affected parties.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Variation to Regional Public Transport Plan;**
- 2 Approves the variation of the Regional Public Transport Plan contracting units, as described in the report.**
- 3 Approves the responses to submitters on the proposed variation to the Regional Public Transport Plan as described in Appendix One of the report.**

**Thompson/von Dadelszen
CARRIED**

7.3 Options to improve the reliability of Tauranga urban bus services

The report updated the Committee on reliability issues on some Tauranga urban bus services and provided options for improvement. Staff did not expect significant change

in distances from bus stops with straightening or truncating routes. It was noted that Tauranga City Council had identified some issues with buses manoeuvring around roundabouts, which were being investigated. Information from the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) was still to be advised regarding bus delay impacts from the forthcoming Baypark to Bayfair interchange project.

Members supported an investigation into the potential of Park 'n Ride options for Tauranga City and the Western Bay to reduce congestion and considered that discussions needed to be fronted at the political level.

NZTA staff representative Cole O'Keefe advised that NZTA did not consider a Park 'n Ride at the proposed Baypark to Bayfair interchange was feasible however, he and Transport Policy Manager Garry Maloney undertook to raise the matter further with NZTA.

In terms of congestion issues, the importance of bus driver behaviour and being able to respond to complaints in an appropriate manner was raised.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Options to improve the reliability of Tauranga urban bus services.**

**Thurston/Thompson
CARRIED**

- 2 Requests urgent discussions at a political and staff level with New Zealand Transport Agency, Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council regarding the development of a Park 'n Ride associated with the Bay Park to Bayfair Project.**

- 3 Requests a report on the philosophy and the potential Park 'n Ride options for Tauranga City and the Western Bay.**

**Nees/Bruning
CARRIED**

7.4 Other Matters of Interest

The report provided information on other matters of interest not reported elsewhere. Transport Policy Manager Garry Maloney informed that an update on the Regional Integrated Ticketing System (RITS) project would be reported to the Committee at its meeting in August.

Discussions were proceeding with Rotorua Lakes Council staff around bus promotion for the Lions-All Blacks rugby game, where it was likely the Regional Council would provide free travel to ticket-holders on the day of the Lions game.

Advice was received that student concession fares for Toi Ohomai Tertiary Institute in Rotorua were \$1.20 per ride compared to the standard student rate of approximately \$1.80. Regarding the bus satisfaction survey, questions would be standard and consistent with past surveys set by the New Zealand Transport Agency.

It was requested that the Tauranga School transport survey be used as an input for further member consideration of the Western Bay of Plenty Public Transport Blueprint and the Regional Fare Review.

It was noted that the Tauranga fare-free student bus transport would be addressed through the next review of the Regional Public Transport Plan in July 2018. Comment was raised on the need for decisions on the fare review to be evidence-based.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Other Matters of Interest.

Thurston/Thompson
CARRIED

- 2 Request that the transport survey be completed to inform decisions required on the Regional Fare Review.

Thompson/Molloy
CARRIED

8 Public Excluded Section

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 - 17 February 2017	To enable the local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	Good reason for withholding exists under section 48(1)(a).

Thurston/Winters
CARRIED

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 am and reconvened at 1:15 pm.

Attendance

Councillor von Dadelszen left the meeting during the adjournment.

8.1 **Western Bay of Plenty Public Transport Blueprint - Proposed Network for Public Engagement**

The report sought approval on the preferred Western Bay of Plenty Public Transport Blueprint BayHopper and SchoolHopper bus networks for public engagement. Consultation would be undertaken in May prior to seeking approval of a final network design.

In considering the options, the Committee agreed to seek public engagement on the preferred options, with specific feedback sought on key differences and issues.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Western Bay of Plenty Public Transport Blueprint - Proposed Network for Public Engagement.**
- 2 Approves Option 3 as the preferred option for the future Urban network as outlined in the report, as the basis for public engagement, specifically seeking feedback on:**
 - a. An extension of the City loop service to Greerton;**
 - b. Service operating hours extending to 9:00 pm;**
 - c. Weekday frequency; and**
 - d. Frequency on the City loop service.**
- 3 Approves the SchoolHopper network as outlined in the report, as the basis for public engagement.**
- 4 Notes that the combined estimate cost of the bus networks being proposed for public engagement is greater than budgeted in the current Long Term Plan 2015-25.**
- 5 Notes that the New Zealand Transport Agency at this time has not agreed to provide additional investment for the bus networks being proposed for public engagement.**
- 6 Agrees to hold an extraordinary meeting in June 2017 to consider public feedback on and finalise the proposed networks to enable development of the procurement documents.**

**Crosby/Winters
CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 1:21 pm.