

**Public Minutes of the Public Transport Committee Meeting held in Mauao Rooms, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Building, 87 First Avenue, Tauranga on Thursday, 16 August 2018 commencing at 9.30 a.m.**

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**Present:**

**Chairman:** L Thurston

**Deputy Chairman:** N Bruning

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

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

**In Attendance:** Bay of Plenty Regional Council: Fiona McTavish – Chief Executive, Namouta Poutasi – General Manager: Strategy and Science (Acting), Mat Taylor – General Manager: Corporate Performance, Garry Maloney – Transport Policy Manager, Joe Metcalfe – Senior Transport Planner, Mike Furniss – Senior Transport Operations Officer, Melissa Winters – Transport Operations Officer, Jen Proctor – Transport Operations Officer, Yvonne Tatton – Governance Manager, Tone Nerdrum-Smith – Committee Advisor

Cr J Cronin

Other Attendees: Cole O’Keefe – Principal Planning Advisor NZTA, Clare Cassidy – Senior Transport Planner Tauranga City Council, Greg Bassam - Senior Transport Planner Tauranga City Council, Mr David Riley - Whakamarama Community Inc., Janette Andrews and June Jennings – Somervale Retirement Village

**Apologies:** Chairman D Leeder (Ex-Officio)

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**1 Apologies**

**Resolved**

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Accepts the apology from Chairman Leeder (Ex-Officio) tendered at the meeting.

**Thompson/Nees  
CARRIED**

**Resolved**

**That the Public Transport Committee:**

- 1 **Notes that Clare Cassidy, Tauranga City Council and Mayor Greg Brownless, Tauranga City Council had been invited to join the Committee at the Members' table, including for the Public Excluded session.**

**Gould/Thompson  
CARRIED**

## 2 **Public Forum**

Mr David Riley - Whakamarama Community Inc. (WCI)

*Tabled Item 1 and Map – Objective Reference A2940712*

### Key Points

- Concerned there were no bus stops planned for Whakamarama on the Ōmokoroa-Tauranga route
- There were approximately 11,000 resident between Tauranga and Katikati who would be serviced by the bus route
- Around 50 people had responded to postings on social media regarding the bus route and whether they would use a bus stop in Whakamarama
- Feedback from the local community indicated a keenness to use public transport and a wish to work with Council in establishing a suitable service
- Supported Public Transport Blueprint Option 3
- Council Transport staff was scheduled to attend the Whakamarama Community Inc. (WCI) AGM next week
- Driving to Ōmokoroa to catch the bus was not practical for those who did not have access to private vehicles.

## 3 **Acceptance of Late Items**

Nil

## 4 **General Business**

Nil

## 5 **Confidential Business to be transferred into the Open**

Nil

## 6 **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

Nil

## 7 **Previous Minutes**

### 7.1 **Public Transport Committee Minutes - 11 May 2018**

**Resolved**

**That the Public Transport Committee:****1 Confirms the Public Transport Committee minutes - 11 May 2018 with the following amendment:**

- **Page 2 – Public Forum – In Response to Questions – Fifth Bullet: Change to “In their opinion, the possibility of a regional fuel tax should be further investigated as a funding opportunity”.**

Von Dadelszen/Gould  
**CARRIED**

**Matters Arising:**

- Page 8 – Public Transport Blueprint – Progress Update/Western Bay Multi-Modal Transport System: An application had been submitted to the Provincial Growth Fund and a copy would be distributed to the Members
- Page 9 – Free Transport for School Students: The investigation into trialling a school students’ fare-free Welcome Bay bus service had not yet commenced.

**8 Reports****8.1 Petition Against Removal of Bus Stops Outside Somervale Retirement Village**

*Map – Objective Reference A2940751*

June Jennings and Janette Andrews - Petitioners

**Key Points**

- Concerned regarding the proposed removal of the bus stops outside Somervale Retirement Village
- The bus stops were used by both residents and visitors
- It was too far for the elderly residents to walk to the otherwise nearest bus stops
- Important for the elderly to have ease of access to transport.

**Staff in Response to Questions**

- Had reconsidered the decision to remove the bus stops and had, based on the information provided, agreed that they be retained.

**Resolved****That the Public Transport Committee:****1 Receives the report, Petition Against Removal of Bus Stops Outside Somervale Retirement Village**

Thurston/Bruning  
**CARRIED**

**8.2 Public Transport Blueprint - Progress Update**

Garry Maloney – Transport Policy Manager, Joe Metcalfe – Senior Transport Planner and Mike Furniss – Senior Transport Operations Officer provided an outline of the report.

### Staff Key Points

- Noted that the agenda for the day was operationally focussed. Looking ahead, there was a clear need to progress the strategic thinking about the role of public transport and how it was integrated with a proposed review of the Regional Land Transport Plan, and community aspirations and engagement
- Could not guarantee that electric buses would be immediately available under the new service provider as negotiations were ongoing
- Details regarding the Welcome Bay free school bus trial had not yet been worked through and resource requirements were at this stage not known
- Increasing demand meant there was a 12 month delivery time for electric buses and there were some recognised challenges with regards to adequate charging facilities
- Change in bus service providers would always carry some risk of service being affected for a period of time
- The bus fleet would be standardised, rather than a mix of smaller and larger sizes, and the service provider would upgrade the fleet as required
- Brookfield Interchange would be located at Bellevue Road, with an additional stop at Millers Road
- NZTA was revisiting the B2B project for inclusion of additional walking and cycling facilities
- Noted that the Mitsubishi buses involved in recent serious accidents were not use in the Western Bay of Plenty.

### Members' Comments

- Considered there was a demand for a suitable service to the hospital, continuing to Gate Pa
- Essential that school children had access to adequate public transport
- Strategic planning for increased patronage, and innovative, change-oriented thinking was required for a positive outcome
- Important to work closely with Central Government with regards to the negative impact of withdrawing the funding of school buses
- Concerned regarding the dangerous intersection at Plummers Point Road/SH2
- Concerned regarding the lack of patronage at the Tauranga – Omokoroa service and the continued investment with an apparent lack of positive result
- An integrated plan for increased public transport use was required in recognition of its multifaceted complexity
- Park and ride facilities by Omokoroa were being moved so patrons were not required to cross the road.

### Staff Follow-up

- A report to be brought to the next meeting of the Committee with focus on behavioural change measures to increase patronage.

### Greg Bassam - Senior Transport Planner Tauranga City Council

- Provided an update on the Bayfair/Arataki Interchange project and the planned provisions for cycling and walking
- Public consultation, including open days, was currently underway and 30 responses had been received at this stage, with the majority being positive. The Saturday open day had attracted approximately 150 visitors
- A workshop session with TCC Councillors would take place the following week to identify short/medium/long term goals for the Tauranga Transport Centre.

## **Resolved**

**That the Public Transport Committee:**

- 1 **Receives the report, Public Transport Blueprint - Progress update.**
- 2 **Approves the service level variations outlined in sections 3.1 and 3.4 of the report provided they are within the allocation of funds set aside for that purpose in the Long Term Plan.**
- 3 **Agrees not to extend the Hospital loop service to 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue as the overall impact of the change is unlikely to improve the service for most customers.**
- 4 **Endorses, for the Katikati and Omokoroa services, Option 3: deliver the Blueprint services as planned from 10 December and investigate further enhancements from start of the 2019/2020 financial year.**

**Gould/Crosby  
CARRIED**

10.26 am The meeting **adjourned**. The Chairperson invited all present to join the Committee on a test ride on an electric bus.

11.14 am The meeting **reconvened**.

### 8.3 **New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) Update**

*PowerPoint Presentation – Objective Reference A2940819*

Cole O’Keefe – Principal Planning Advisor NZTA updated the Committee on current national and regional initiatives.

#### Key Points - Presentation

- Topics
- Government Policy Statement 2018
- Second-stage GPS
- Investment Assessment Framework
- Public Transport, rapid transit & transitional rail
- New National Programmes
- Enhanced Funding Assistance Rates.

#### In Response to Questions

- Draft National Transport Programme was currently under consideration by the NZTA Board
- A national programme for resilience was being developed, which would also relate to flooding and climate change affecting the roading network
- Recognised that Local Territorial Authorities (LTAs) were challenged by having already completed consultation on a number of transport projects that may now require reprioritisation under the new Government Policy Statement (GPS).

#### Clare Cassidy – Senior Transport Planner Tauranga City Council

- Current transport projects were based on the previous GPS, with changes anticipated as priorities were reviewed to align with the new GPS.
- It was challenging to secure contractors, in particular for smaller infrastructure projects, and this impacted on LTAs’ ability to deliver within optimal timeframes.

### **Resolved**

**That the Public Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

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

**Thurston/Thompson  
CARRIED**

## 8.4 Recommendation to Adopt Regional Public Transport Plan

Garry Maloney – Transport Policy Manager and Joe Metcalfe – Senior Transport Planner provided a brief outline of the report.

### Staff Key Points

- Recognised that this was an operational, rather than strategic, Plan
- Further work would be undertaken within the next 18 month as part of the Business Case which would also address the impact of the budgeted shortfall within the LTP 2018-28
- Not approving the Plan would mean contracts with service providers might not meet the requirements for NZTA funding at the point of commencement
- Important to accept the Plan as a ‘moment in time’ and that it would be subject to ongoing review.

### Members’ Comments

- Concerned that the Plan did not clearly identify the desire to increase patronage of public transport
- Important to identify who the target users would be, e.g. commuters in/out of the CBD
- Recognised that the Regional Public Transport Plan would be reviewed to reflect changed priorities under the new GPS
- Noted that page 50 of the agenda should clarify the comments as being “Public transport ‘will’, not ‘should be’ more expensive for families”
- How public transport was promoted and delivered should be more clearly set out within the Plan
- Concerned that the investment in public transport did not achieve the desired outcomes
- Essential to recognise and emphasize the urgency of public transport
- Noted that public transport patronage was declining in Rotorua, as it was in Tauranga, and encouraged a review of the service pre-2019 as planned.

### Staff Follow-up

- All key partners to be involved in the preparation of the culture/behaviour change report for the next Committee meeting.

## **Resolved**

**That the Public Transport Committee:**

- 1 Receives the report, Recommendation to Adopt Regional Public Transport Plan.**
- 2 Endorses the amended Regional Public Transport Plan;**

- 3 Notes that staff will coordinate with key partners to develop a plan to increase patronage on public transport and report back at next Public Transport Committee meeting, with urgency.

That the Public Transport Committee recommends that the Regional Council:

- 4 Adopts the Regional Public Transport Plan to become active from 10 December 2018.

Von Dadelszen/Thompson  
CARRIED

## 8.5 2017/18 End of Financial Year Public Transport Achievement Report

### Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, 2017/18 End of Financial Year Public Transport Achievement Report.

Bruning/Winters  
CARRIED

## 8.6 Public Transport Technology

Garry Maloney – Transport Policy Manager and Melissa Winters – Transport Operations Officer provided an outline of the report.

### Key Points

- Upgrades to the Transport App had made it more user friendly
- Council was working with Tauranga City Council regarding electronic signage on bus stops as an alternative source of information.

### Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Public Transport Technology.
- 2 Requests that staff provide a subsequent report to the Committee containing more detailed information on the opportunity to deploy a single region-wide Real Time Passenger Information system in Rotorua and Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Von Dadelszen/Winters  
CARRIED

## 8.7 Other Matters of Interest

Garry Maloney – Transport Policy Manager provided a brief overview.

Key Points

- Outlined the NZTA safety provisions
- Staff were working through transport projects identified within the LTP 2018-28.

**Resolved**

**That the Public Transport Committee:**

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

**Thurston/Winters  
CARRIED**

12.18 pm The meeting **adjourned** and Cr Thwaites **withdrew** from the meeting.

12.43 pm The meeting **reconvened**.

**8.8 Public Excluded Section**

**Resolved**

**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:**

<b>General Subject of Matter to be Considered</b>	<b>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to this matter</b>	<b>Grounds under Section 48(1) LGOIMA 1987 for passing this resolution</b>
<b>Regional Ticketing System Update</b>	<b>To carry out commercial and industrial negotiations</b>	<b>Good reason for withholding exists under Section 48(1)(a)</b>
<b>Options to maintain Twin City Express</b>	<b>To carry out commercial and industrial negotiations</b>	<b>Good reason for withholding exists under Section 48(1)(a)</b>
<b>Transit Multi Modal AV Proposal</b>	<b>To protect the commercial position of an individual</b>	<b>Good reason for withholding exists under Section 48(1)(a)</b>

**Thurston/Molloy  
CARRIED**

**THAT Clare Cassidy, Tauranga City Council, Cole O’Keefe - NZTA (all) and Mark Wassung, Max Lewis and Brendan Heapy (Transit Multi Modal AV Proposal presentation only), be allowed to remain for the Public Excluded section to provide their knowledge in relation to the matter to be discussed.**



**Thompson/Gould  
CARRIED**

**The meeting closed at 2.15 pm**

Confirmed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date