

Minutes of the Public Transport Committee Meeting held in Mauao Rooms, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Building, 87 First Avenue, Tauranga on Friday, 9 November 2018 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: L Thurston

Deputy Chairman: N Bruning

Councillors: P Thompson, J Nees, 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: BOPRC: Fiona McTavish – Chief Executive, Namouta Poutasi – General Manager, Strategy & Sciences, Garry Maloney – Manager, Transport Policy, Matt Hunt – Marketing & Communications Advisor, Rachel Pinn – Programme Leader, Passenger Transport, Jen Proctor – Transport Operations Officer, Melissa Winters – Transport Operations Officer, T Nerdrum-Smith – Committee Advisor

Cr D Love

TCC: Cr Brown, Cr Stewart, Cr Baldock, Cr Curach, Cr Mason, Cr Robson, Cr Grainger, Cr Clout

Others: James Hughes – Public Forum, Mark Hasley - NZTA

Apologies: Cr S Crosby

1 Chairperson's Introduction

Cr Thurston welcomed those present and advised that the Tauranga City Council Elected Members had been invited to attend the meeting, including the Public Excluded section, to encourage exchange of ideas regarding transport issues affecting the wider Bay of Plenty region.

2 Apologies

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Accepts the apology from Cr Crosby tendered at the meeting.

Gould/Thompson
CARRIED

3 Public Forum

Refer PowerPoint Presentation A3047324

James Hughes and Sue McArthur – Greater Tauranga addressed the meeting regarding inclusion of dedicated bus lanes as part of the B2B project.

Key Points of PP presentation

- URGENT: Bus Lane – Bayfair to Hewletts
- Bayfair Roundabout/Flyover
- Option 1
- Option 2
- Summary
 - Must-do project – now
 - Potential solution.

In Response to Questions

- Considerations should also be given to allocation of cycleways, in particular along Hewletts Road.

Key Points – Members/Attendees

- NZTA was considering all options for inclusion of bus lanes, cycleways and pedestrian access as part of the B2B project
- Design work for B2B was completed with regards to a cycle/walking underpass and funding was being sourced
- B2B project assumptions relied on the Farm Street bus interchange progressing, however there was some flexibility if this changed.

Joseph McFarlane, Dr Logan Bannister and Mr Patrick Brus – University of Waikato/Toi Ohomai addressed the meeting regarding Item 8.4: Requests for Tertiary Student Transport Services.

Key Points

- Recognised the opening of the University of Waikato Tauranga campus in 2019 and the collaboration with Toi Ohomai, which would significantly enhance the provision of tertiary education in Tauranga
- Would like to work with BOPRC Transport staff with regards to provision of public transport that would make it possible for students to travel from Whakatāne, Rotorua and Tauranga to Toi Ohomai and the University campus
- Providing transport services currently cost Toi Ohomai \$400,000 per annum.

- The free student bus service in Rotorua had been discontinued in 2017 as it was no longer financially viable.

4 **Acceptance of Late Items**

Nil

5 **General Business**

Road charges (to be discussed at the end of the Public Section of the meeting)

6 **Confidential Business to be Transferred into the Open**

Nil

7 **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

Nil

8 **Previous Minutes**

8.1 **Public Transport Committee Minutes - 16 August 2018**

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 **Confirms the Public Transport Committee minutes - 16 August 2018**

Von Dadelszen/Thompson
CARRIED

9 **Reports**

9.1 **Growing Patronage**

Garry Maloney – Transport Policy Manager, Jensen Varghese and Nicholas Reid – MRCagney presented this item via two PowerPoint presentations.

Refer PowerPoint Presentations 1 (A3027163) and 2 (A3047382)

Key Points of Presentation 1

- Growing Patronage
- Context
- Policy Framework
- What do our customers want
- What does the literature say
- Travel Behaviour Change
- The Plan
 - Partnering
 - Frequency & reliability

- Pricing
- Marketing.

Presenters in Response to Questions

- Bus stops were located approximately 400m apart within the urban areas
- The amended Public Transport Blueprint included a focus on providing effective transfers, which increased the destination options
- Fast travel was a key consideration for commuters.

10.08am Cr Clout – TCC **entered** the meeting and Cr Stewart – TCC **withdrew** from the meeting.

Key Points of Presentation 2

- MRCagney
- Existing situation
- “Behaviour Change”
- Behaviour change – key messages
- How do I get there? Key factors at each stage of the journey
- What does your surveys say – current and potential users
- Tauranga New Network
- Fare-free outcomes
- Free fares internationally
- Free fares systems in practice
- Recommendations.

Presenters in Response to Questions

- Information regarding supply of vehicles in the Bay of Plenty was available from NZTA
- Vehicle depreciation did not appear to factor in when commuters considered travel options
- Bus priority lanes, i.e. faster fares, vs lower cost/free fares, was more likely to have a positive impact on patronage
- Creating priority bus lanes often meant appropriation of adjacent land, which could be challenging.

Key Points – Members/Attendees

- Sufficient infrastructure was a key issue for public transport to be successful
- Loss of free service, e.g. for students and Gold Card users, had resulted in a reduction in patronage
- Sought further data with regards to desired public transport targets and outcomes.

11.04 am The meeting **adjourned**.

11.25 am The meeting **reconvened**.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Growing Patronage.**

- 2 Supports the assembly of regional and subregional transport data, including target markets and vehicle growth, that enables understanding of the movement of people and goods through jointly agreed avenues.
- 3 Agrees that it is desirable to have at least at the sub-regional level, Regional Council/territorial authority/NZ Transport Agency agreed public transport patronage and/or mode share targets, a public transport implementation plan and approach to travel behaviour change. This work is to be developed with key stakeholders, including education providers.
- 4 Notes that the principal drivers of patronage growth for urban bus services are service frequency improvements and measures associated with bus reliability, which are at the foundation of the design of the western Bay of Plenty Public Transport Blueprint network roll-out in December 2018.
- 5 Encourages its territorial authority partners to boldly invest in bus priority where this is identified as an issue, as it is an effective mechanism to rapidly develop and improve a city passenger transport system.
- 6 Conduct a comprehensive review of Regional Council bus fares next year, either in its own right or as part of a wider sub-regional approach to changing travel behaviour. This work will include the consideration of the impact of fare changes on congestion and social factors.
- 7 Notes that Regional Council staff will prepare a comprehensive public transport marketing plan and if time and resources permit, review our branding next year.

Von Dadelszen/Winters
CARRIED

9.2 Public Transport Blueprint - Progress Update

Refer PowerPoint Presentation A3028645

Garry Maloney – Transport Policy Manager, Matt Hunt – Marketing & Communications Advisor and Rachel Pinn – Programme Leader, Passenger Transport presented this item.

Key Points of Presentation

- Western BoP Blueprint Network Roll-out
- Things to think about
- Top of Mind – Wellington
- Context
- Blueprint DBC
- The challenge
- Effective Ways to Grow Urban Bus Markets
- Blueprint Recommended Option
- Community engagement
- What's different
- Link services
- City Link/Hospital Link
- Express services

- Eastern corridor
- Western Corridor
- Communications
- NZME digital campaign
- Sun Media Digital
- Billboard campaign
- November campaign
- Feedback to date
- Roll on 10 December.

In Response to Questions

- Recognised that some geographical areas were disadvantaged by the changing services, e.g. Maungatapu commuters were required to travel via Greerton to reach the CBD, however a previous direct route had not been well supported by the community

11.44 am Cr Stewart - TCC **entered** the meeting.

- A number of fares to/from the Hospital would require transfers, which was consistent with the current service
- Communication with NZTA was in progress regarding access to public transport in outlying areas, as there were safety issues linked to bus stops along the State Highway network
- Bus stops were identified on Google Maps
- A comprehensive communications plan regarding the upcoming changes, including presenting to community groups, had been prepared.

Key Points – Members/Attendees

- There had been commentary on Facebook with regards to changes in the service, e.g. from Papamoa
- TCC was committed to the opening of the Farm Street interchange by 10 December 2018
- Sought commitment from TCC to invest in infrastructure and encouraged future-oriented thinking, e.g. dedicated bus lanes, no-parking zones on Cameron Road at peak times etc.

Staff Follow-up

- Travel-time analysis to be made publicly available via the BOPRC website
- Key messages as provided at the Annual Plan 2019-20 Workshop to be made available to TCC Councillors.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

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

**Thurston/Thompson
CARRIED**

9.3 Request for Murupara to Rotorua Commuter Bus Service

Garry Maloney – Transport Policy Manager presented this item.

In Response to Questions

- Whakatāne District Council had been advised of the report and recommendations.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Request for Murupara to Rotorua Commuter Bus Service.**
- 2 Further consider the merits of the proposed additional service as part of preparing the 2019/20 Annual Plan.**

**Gould/Winters
CARRIED**

9.4 Requests for Tertiary Student Transport Services

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Requests for Tertiary Student Transport Services.**
- 2 Further consider the merits of the proposed additional services as part of preparing the 2019/20 Annual Plan.**

**Bruning/Nees
CARRIED**

9.5 Outcomes from Annual Plan Workshop

Namouta Poutasi – General Manager, Strategy & Sciences and Garry Maloney – Transport Policy Manager presented this item.

In Response to Questions

- Provision of e-buses was part of the expectation when BOPRC tendered for the new public transport provider, however unforeseen challenges meant the supply had been delayed
- Staff were committed to the provision of an electric vehicle fleet.

Key Points – Members/Attendees

- Concerned regarding the delay in e-buses and queried whether a cost increase to Council could be the result.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Outcomes from Annual Plan Workshop.**

**Thurston/Bruning
CARRIED**

9.6 Performance of Public Transport Services for July to September 2018

Jen Proctor – Transport Operations Officer, Melissa Winters – Transport Operations Officer and Rachel Pinn – Programme Leader, Passenger Transport presented this item.

In Response to Questions

- Mystery shoppers worked through a check list when assessing a service
- The Public Transport Blueprint review had assessed the total mobility aspect of the service.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Performance of Public Transport Services for July to September 2018;**
- 2 Requests that a report regarding innovation in the total mobility sector be brought back to the Committee for consideration**

**Molloy/von Dadelszen
CARRIED**

9.7 The 2018 Bus Satisfaction Survey

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, The 2018 Bus Satisfaction Survey.**

**Nees/Gould
CARRIED**

9.8 Other Matters of Interest

Garry Maloney – Transport Policy Manager presented this item.

In Response to Questions

- Staff had met with Maori Wardens, Police and security companies in Rotorua following the assault on a bus driver and there had been no further safety incidents
- Welcome Bay free school bus trial was scheduled to commence in Term 1, 2019 and the outcome of the trial was expected to be available by mid-2019.

Staff Follow-up

- Forecasting for the free Welcome Bay trial to be prepared and considered as part of the Annual Plan 2019-20 workshops.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Other Matters of Interest**
- 2 Investigate Tauranga city-wide school bus fare free options early next year to feed into 2019-20 Annual Plan**
- 3 Agrees that representation be made to the relevant Ministers regarding unique issues relating to school transport in Tauranga**
- 4 Requests that a report be brought back to the Committee outlining all funding opportunities available for public transport under the new and existing Government Policy Statement.**

**Thompson/Nees
CARRIED**

12.35 pm The meeting **adjourned** and Cr Bruning and Cr Gould **withdrew** from the meeting.

1.05 pm The meeting **reconvened**.

9.9 Public Excluded Section

Resolved

Resolution to exclude the public

- 1 Excludes the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.**
- 2 Invites Tauranga City Councillors and staff, and NZTA representatives as listed in the minutes, to remain after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of the information being presented and requirement to respond to questions of clarification.**

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 - 16 August 2018	Refer the relevant sections of the minutes	Good reason for withholding exists under Section 48(1)(a)
Tauriko West Network Connections, Detailed Business Case Update Presentation	To protect the commercial position of an individual	Good reason for withholding exists under Section 48(1)(a)
Public Transport Blueprint – Variations Update <i>(distributed under separate cover)</i>	To carry out commercial and industrial negotiations	Good reason for withholding exists under Section 48(1)(a)
Real Time Passenger information - Rotorua and Western Bay	To carry out commercial activities	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)

Thurston/von Dadelszen
CARRIED

11 Consideration of General Business

Road Charges

Key Points – Members/Attendees

- Encouraged councils to take a lead role in implementing road charges to assist in addressing traffic congestion
- Questioned whether legislation allowed Council to introduce road charges for such purpose.

The meeting closed at 2.04 pm

Confirmed DATE

Cr Lyall Thurston, Chairperson
Public Transport Committee