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Report to the Passenger Transport Committee
By Dr Dave Watson, Divisional Manager Transport

Public Transport Update

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on recent developments and work in progress in the Public Transport Department.

2. Newlands and Churton Park New Services

The new "Kick Start" services started on 16th December 2000. There have been a number of complaints and congratulations. Most of the complaints relate to route changes, either people have lost a service in their street or they have gained one and they don't appreciate it. Those who have lost a service may have to walk about 500 metres to reach the new service.

The congratulations have mainly been about the fact that the services now run through to Courtenay Place rather than stopping at Brandon Street. This means that people can move safely across the entertainment part of the city at night in particular.

3. Kick Start Projects Approval

Several bus and rail service projects submitted to Transfund New Zealand for kick start funding have been approved. These approvals were received on Friday 22nd December 2000.

3.1 Rail Service Improvements

This is an increase in existing services particularly up the west coast line. It provides all stations from Plimmerton to Paraparaumu with a service frequency similar to that currently provided to Porirua. Upper Hutt also receives the same frequency of service as Waterloo. At the time of writing, the start date for these increased services was not known.

Transfund New Zealand approval is for the remainder of this current year to 30 June 2001 because our contract with Tranz Rail only runs to that date. We will need to seek approval for 2001/02 and 2002/03 for these service improvements each year while we have a yearly contract. The estimated annual net cost of these service improvements is \$600,000.

3.2 **Wellington City Bus Improvements**

There are several bus service improvements in Wellington City. These include extra peak services from Miramar and Seatoun. Increased frequency on Route 14 from 45 minutes to 30 minutes. Numerous shoulder of the peak services increase across the city. Weekend service frequency increases on many routes. Details of all these changes will be provided once final negotiations have been held with the operator.

The operator of these services, Stagecoach (Wgtn) Ltd, are having difficulty servicing enough vehicles immediately to implement all the changes. Transfund funding support has been approved through to 30 June 2001. Future funding will need to be applied for in the annual programme. The estimated annual net cost of these improvements is \$1 m.

3.3 **Porirua–Hutt Valley via SH58**

This a 2 year trial service. The service is a direct bus link between Porirua and Upper Hutt via Haywards Hill. The request for tender has been circulated and tenders close soon. Transfund have approved funding for the period of the trial. The estimated annual net cost is \$120,000.

3.4 **Kapiti Coast Bus Improvements**

This project moves the Kapiti Coast bus service from purely a rail feeder service to a local bus service. The new rail service will influence some of the timing of bus services. Transfund have approved this project for the three years. It has an estimated net annual cost of \$315,000.

3.5 **Eastbourne Peak Bus Improvements**

This is a trial service designed to increase the bus capacity on the Hutt Valley to Wellington City corridor. Transfund have approved the service for the trial period. The estimated annual net cost of the trial is \$70,000.

3.6 **Otaki Bus Service**

This a trial bus service from Otaki to Paraparaumu covering the peak and interpeak. A survey of residents is planned to be run soon. Transfund have approved the service for the trial period. The estimated annual net cost of the service is \$65,000.

3.7 **Paekakariki Shoppers Service**

This a trial 2 to 3 days a week service using a small vehicle to connect with some trains and access to Paraparaumu. A survey will be conducted soon to assess the best times and days of the week. Transfund have approved the service for the trial period. The estimated annual net cost of the service is \$7,000.

3.8 **Bus Shelters**

This project is to increase the number of bus shelters across the region. Completing 15 during the remainder of the year and 50 a year in the following two years. Transfund have approved the three years of funding. The estimated annual net cost of this project is \$300,000.

3.9 **Bus Stop Displays**

This project is to replace existing bus stop display cabinets with vandal resistant cases. 2000 such cases are involved. Transfund have approved this project for the three years. The estimated annual net cost of the project is \$48,000.

3.10 **Other Projects**

Tranfund New Zealand currently have five other projects that they are considering. These are:

- (1) Wairarapa carriage refurbishment
- (2) Porirua-Johnsonville-Lower Hutt bus service
- (3) Eastbourne weekend bus service
- (4) Porirua City bus service improvements
- (5) Whitby-Porirua bus service improvements

4. **Cityline Hutt Valley Christmas Services**

... **Attached** is a letter from Mr Ian Turner, Commercial Director of Stagecoach New Zealand, regarding the problems that arose over the Cityline Hutt Valley Christmas bus timetable.

Ridewell received many complaints regarding the reduced timetable provided by Cityline Hutt Valley over the Christmas period. We endeavoured to react to the problem as they arose by authorising some additional services.

This matter is also the subject of a letter addressed to the Chairman of the Committee from Councillor Allen which is included with the order paper. Mr Anthony Cross, Manager, Public Transport will provide some further insights into this matter at the meeting.

5. **Recommendations**

That this report be received.

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1 : Letter from Stagecoach New Zealand re Cityline Christmas Timetable