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Report 02.725

30 September 2002

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Passenger Transport Committee  
held in the Wellington Regional Council Chamber, The Regional  
Council Centre, 142-146 Wakefield Street, Wellington on  
Monday, 30 September 2002 at 9.30am**

**Present**

Councillors Turver (Chairperson), Aitken, Barr, Buchanan, Evans, Kirton, Laidlaw, McDavitt, Thomas and Yardley and Councillor Foster (WCC)

**Also Present**

Councillors Long and Werry

**Officers Present**

Messrs Brennand, Cross, Darroch, Grace, Leonard, and Stone and Dr Watson and Karen Richardson

**Public Business**

**Procedural Items**

PT 64      **Apologies**

*Resolved*

*(Cr Turver/Cr Evans)*

*That the apology from Councillor Shields be confirmed.*

PT 65      **Public Participation**

**Mr B Efford**

Mr Efford referred to an article in the Dominion Post of 24 September 2002 with the heading *Commuters Ditch Trains*. The article quoted commuters who were becoming fearful of their safety while travelling on the Tranz Metro trains within the Wellington Region. Mr Efford said this showed how necessary it was for the Wellington Regional Council to be involved in a joint venture for the running of rail in the region.

Mr Efford also referred to an article in the Dominion Post of 30 September 2002 with the heading *Track Sale Risky for Rail Users*. The article quoted from recent cabinet papers where officials had expressed the view that train travel could get more dangerous if the government buys back rail tracks from Tranz Rail. Mr Efford said this was nonsense as there were many examples within the airport and port industry where different infrastructures carried different ownerships without impacting negatively on the overall safety of the operations within these infrastructures.

Mr Efford concluded that the government treasury was responsible for the current mess for rail commuters within the region and urged the Regional Council to proceed as quickly as possible in its joint venture project.

Councillor Foster arrived at 9.45am.

**Mr J C Horne, 28 Kaihuia Street, Northland**

Mr Horne referred to vehicle quality standards, bus lanes and congratulated the Councillors for the way the Dr Geoff Kenworthy lectures had been supported. Mr Horne also thanked Mr Cross for his letter responding to matters which he had raised at the 18 July 2002 Passenger Transport Committee meeting.

A copy of Mr Horne's written submission was circulated.

PT 66      **Confirmation of Minutes**

**PT 59 Hutt Valley Buses – A Fresh Start**

Members noted that recommendation (6) in paragraph PT 59 of the minutes should be amended to read as follows:

*That it be noted that any system of integrated fares is likely to generate an expectation for similar simplification and integration of fares throughout the region.*

*Resolved*

*(Cr Aitken/Cr Laidlaw)*

*That the minutes held on 29 August 2002, Report 02.556, as amended, be confirmed.*

## **Matters Arising**

### **Stagecoach Services in Wellington: Presentation by Mr Ross Martin**

Members noted that Mr Martin had not yet provided information on the Company's Staff Training Policy.

## **Matters for Information**

### **PT 67 Rail Safety: Presentation by Mr Glen Summers, LTSA National Rail Manager**

Ms Demetra Kennedy introduced Mr Glen Summers of the Land Transport Safety Authority who gave a presentation on the Safety Policy for Rail Networks throughout New Zealand.

Mr Summers explained the recent developments in rail ownership and how the Land Transport Safety Authority had adapted its safety audit process to the new ownership structure.

Tranz Rail's safety audit was completed by Telerk and Mr Summers explained the audit process using the Orongorongo Railway which is owned by the Wellington Regional Council as an example.

Mr Summers concluded by outlining the key issues considered during the safety approval process and how the audit was updated during the intervening period.

Mr Summers said that the New Zealand Land Transport Safety Authority had instigated a special safety investigation into the signal breakdowns in the Wellington region. This investigation would be independent of the ongoing audit safety process outlined earlier in the talk.

The meeting agreed that officers would ask Mr Summers to provide some background material concerning previous audits which would be distributed to Councillors.

Councillor Turver thanked Mr Summers for his presentation and for the way he had answered questions from members. Councillor Turver noted that the Regional Council as a funder was not and should not be involved in safety audit procedures. The presentation had been very interesting for members of the Committee.

Morning tea: 10.35am.

Resumption: 10.50am

PT 68      **Review of Bus Service Contracting Regime**

**Report 02.601**

File: T/10/1/1

Mr I Sharp, Bus Strategy Group, gave a presentation on the progress on the review of tendering and contracting requirements, procedures and documentation for the bus service contracting regime.

*Resolved* (Cr Yardley/Cr Buchanan)

*That the report be received.*

PT 69      **Hutt Corridor Study: Presentation by Mr Tony Brennan, Manager Transport Policy**

Mr Brennan gave a presentation on officer recommendations concerning the best transport options for the Hutt Corridor area and the linkages with the Wellington region overall.

Members noted that the Regional Land Transport Committee was now entering into the phase of briefings and discussions with local Councils and stakeholders and was also commencing a public hearings process to consider oral and written submissions. Members of the Passenger Transport Committee considered it appropriate for the Committee to make a written submission to the Hearings Committee.

It was therefore agreed as follows:

*Resolved* (Cr Turver/Cr Barr)

- (1) *That the oral report be received*
- (2) *That a workshop be held to consider a draft written submission to present to the Hearings Committee on the Hutt Corridor Plan*
- (3) *That following workshop agreement a special meeting of the Passenger Transport Committee be held to approve a written submission to the Hearings Subcommittee.*

PT 70      **Research Based Public Transport Marketing - Update**

**Report 02.595**

File: T/10/5/2

*Resolved* (Cr Thomas/Cr Barr)

*That this update be received.*

**PT 71 Other Matters of Interest – September 2002****Report 02.571**

File: E/6/19/3

A copy of a letter dated 26 September 2002 from Councillor Turver, Chairperson, Passenger Transport Committee, to Mr J Turton, General Manager, Design Line (Ashburton) Ltd was circulated concerning the delay in completing a Wellington trolley bus prototype.

*Resolved**(Cr McDavitt/Cr Laidlaw)**That the report be received.***Other Matters****PT 72 Questions**

Councillor Thomas asked that if a Tranz Metro train driver missed a signal by a metre would this be notified to the New Zealand Land Transport Safety Authority. Councillor Thomas asked what was the cut-off for reporting signal mistakes to the Government's Safety Authority.

Dr Watson said he would find out.

Councillor Evans asked when would bus lanes be introduced into the Wellington CBD.

Councillor Turver said that the Wellington City Council and Stagecoach were aware of the demand for bus lanes and Wellington City Council were in the middle of a policy review for the CBD.

Councillor Barr asked whether there was a timetable for when the bus lanes would be in place and whether they would be painted green. Dr Watson said there had been no resolution concerning future painting of the bus lanes and nor was there a timetable for bus lanes in the CBD.

Councillor Aitken asked whether the Wellington City Council consulted with taxi companies during the consideration of the bus lane policy. Councillor Turver said he had noted that taxi companies attended most of the City Council Transport and Infrastructure meetings and were aware of the Wellington City Council's policy in this area.

**PT 73 General**

There were no matters of general business.

The meeting closed at 12.27am.

Cr C TURVER  
Chairperson