

Report 16.453
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Committee Council
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Report on the Sustainable Transport Committee meeting, 21 September 2016

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the Sustainable Transport Committee meeting of 21 September 2016.

2. Public Participation

Lewis Rohloff, Horowhenua Grey Power, spoke about item 10 on the agenda, the Regional Public Transport Plan 2014: Proposed variation - Levin to Waikanae bus trial. Mr Rohloff said that the proposed new bus service would greatly help vulnerable people living in Levin to connect with family, and legal and other medical services in Wellington.

Mike Mellor spoke about two items on the agenda, item 9, the Customer Experience Improvements – Wellington Interchange, and item 10, Regional Public Transport Plan 2014: Proposed variation – Levin to Waikanae bus trial. Mr Mellor congratulated the Council for their work in these areas.

Richard Wagstaff, NZCTU President, outlined the CTU's views about the process being used to tender for bus services in the Wellington Region. The CTU is concerned about the uncertainty of ongoing employment for current bus drivers arising from the tender process. Mr Wagstaff requested that GWRC include specific measures to protect bus drivers' employment conditions as part of the tendering process.

3. Reports

3.1 N2A Programme update (Barry Mein, Programme Manager)

Barry Mein, Programme Manager, updated the Committee on the N2A Programme.

Work is currently underway to define criteria based on the 12 principles that were identified in the consultation period using data and evidence. A solid foundation of good information is important to this process. Engagement with the public on the scenarios will take place in the New Year.

3.2 Kapiti Bus Review

The Committee was updated on the Kapiti Bus Review. In preparation for the PTOM tendering of Kapiti bus services an operational review of the Kapiti bus services was undertaken between September 2015 and March 2016. During June and July 2016 officers consulted with bus users and stakeholders on the proposed changes through a customer focussed public consultation process.

Following Committee endorsement and Council approval, GWRC officers will work on finalising timetable and bus stop changes. Part of this work will include the development of an implementation plan which takes account of key timelines relating to award of the new PTOM bus contract for Kapiti, planned introduction of new Kapiti Line train timetables from mid-2017 and commencement of the new PTOM bus contract for Kapiti in mid-2018.

3.3 Total Mobility Procurement Strategy

The Committee was advised that the Land Transport Management Act 2003 requires approved organisations to document their strategic approach to the procurement of all activities funded through the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP). Having been developed in accordance with the procedures set out in the NZTA Procurement Manual, the draft Total Mobility Procurement Strategy was considered by the Committee.

The Total Mobility Procurement Plan will describe how GWRC will ensure value for money, our procurement requirements (such as door-to-door transport and assessment agency services), our approach to market and the procurement method to be used.

3.4 Customer Experience Improvements – Wellington Interchange

The Committee was updated on progress in evaluating and improving the Wellington Interchange customer experience.

A thorough design review of the customer experience at the site was undertaken and has found as well as customer information and signage improvements, further opportunities exist within the interchange area to improve accessibility to the Metlink network and to grow patronage. There are two streams of recommended improvements:

- Short-term customer information and wayfinding signage, targeted for completion by January 2017.
- Long-term improvements, as part of providing better integrated Metlink services and supporting the transition to the new Wellington's bus network, targeted for completion by June 2018.

3.5 Regional Public Transport Plan 2014: Proposed variation – Levin to Waikanae bus trial

As part of the last Annual Plan process, Council received a request from Horizons Regional Council (Horizons) to trial and jointly fund a Levin - Waikanae bus service. The Council initially declined the request based on uncertainty on potential funding via the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF), and the subsequent impacts on the value proposition for Wellington regional ratepayers.

Several matters have since changed that warrant further consideration of the proposal, including the timing of the proposed service and further correspondence from the NZ Transport Agency confirming that no new NLTF funding or approval is needed for the trial.

The service is proposed to be a twice per week return service from Levin to Waikanae – operating on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The service would depart Levin at approximately 9.40am, which would allow connection to the 10.30am rail service from Waikanae. The service could be arranged to pick up passengers at Otaki, providing an additional travel option for those residents. The return bus service would depart Waikanae just prior to 3pm.

3.6 General Managers' report to the Sustainable Transport Committee 21 September 2016

The Committee received the General Managers' report, which informed the Committee of activities relating to its areas of responsibility.

3.7 Public excluded and restricted public excluded reports

The Committee went into public excluded business to confirm the Public Excluded Minutes of 10 August 2016 and to receive a report on the School Bus Services Review.

4. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

4.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

5. Recommendations

That the Council:

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

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