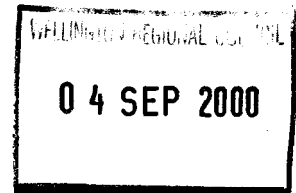


1 September 2000

Anthony Cross  
 Manager, Public Transport  
 Wellington Regional Council  
 P O Box 11-646  
 WELLINGTON

FILE No	T101411	
TO NOTE	INIT	DATE
A. Cross		
TO ACTION		



Dear Anthony

## TOTAL MOBILITY

As you are aware MC Advocacy Services has been advocating to raise the political awareness of the Total Mobility Scheme. We have now been informed by the Ministry of Transport that Total Mobility is on the political agenda as part of the review of New Zealand Public Transport Policy.

While Total Mobility is only a small part of the larger picture of public transport, MC Advocacy Services supports the process of the review. Therefore we feel it is not necessary to continue to advocate for political recognition of the issues, but ensure we are involved in the review process and submitting our recommendations as part of the process.

Over the past months MC Advocacy Services undertook a campaign to gain political attention to the Total Mobility Scheme. Tasks to achieve this were:

- Writing and presenting a submission to WRC letter outlining proposed changes.
- Dissemination of submission to relevant Ministries and Ministers
- The WRC Total Mobility Advisory Group to write and present a submission to the proposed changes.
- Dissemination of submission to relevant Ministries and Ministers
- Writing and presenting a submission to the WRC Annual Plan
- Strategising, facilitating and coordinating the WRC Total Mobility Advisory Group to write and present a submission to the WRC Annual Plan
- Encouraged Service Providers to look at the users of Total Mobility to enable a more accurate assessment of current use
- Letters re Budget announcement to Ministers Mark Gosche and Ruth Dyson
- Communication with Ministry of Transport official
- Meeting with Ministry of Transport Official
- Reporting back to WRC relevant staff

### IHC Advocacy Services

Level 13, Willbank House, 57 Willis Street, P.O. Box 4155, Wellington. Ph 04 471 5732, Fax 04 471 5759

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MC Advocacy Services appreciates the support the WRC Transport Committee provided us and hope the current review will prove advantageous to the Total Mobility scheme.

MC Advocacy Services will continue to be part of the WRC Total Mobility Advisory Group as we are pleased to continue to contribute resources to assist the Wellington Regional Council and ultimately the users of the Total Mobility scheme.

Yours sincerely



Cindy Johns  
ADVOCATE

*Enclosed;* copy of letter to Mark Gosche  
copy of letter to Ruth Dyson  
copy of draft media release

21 July 2000

Honourable Mark Gosche  
Transport Minister  
Parliament Buildings  
**WELLINGTON**

**RE: TOTAL MOBILITY TRANSPORT SCHEME**

We are pleased to note that the announcement that public transport will receive additional funding and that further a commitment has been made to review the way public transport is funded and managed.

The announcement by yourself and the Honourable Ruth Dyson that the Total Mobility Scheme would be part of this is to be congratulated and we support wholeheartedly.

You may not be aware that several Regional Councils are currently looking at their Total Mobility Scheme, their funding and future development and it would therefore be timely to take a coordinated approach to these reviews so users of this service are informed about the extent and nature and status of the review.

Wellington Regional Council recently met with agencies and users of the service and has made a commitment to working in partnership to ensure this valuable scheme continues – with the Ministry of Transport, Regional Councils and Users working together a long-term future seems possible.

Yours sincerely

Janine Stewart  
**DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY**

1 September 2000

Honourable Ruth Dyson  
Minister for Disability Issues  
Parliament Buildings  
**WELLINGTON**

Dear Minister

I read with great interest your comments from the Annual Total Mobility /forum at New Plymouth.

You have captured absolutely the benefits of the Regional Council's Total Mobility Scheme and the issues of inconsistency and threats of withdraw.

Following the announcement by the Honourable Mark Goshe that Total Mobility will be part of a longer term plan to review the way public transport is funded and managed we spoke to Greg Massong at the Ministry of Transport and the Wellington Regional Council and had our initial response dampened.

The Regional Council hear nothing about the review and Mr Massong from the Ministry of Transport seemed unclear about the scope or approach to the review.

Currently several Regional Councils are looking at their schemes and their future Service Users and organisations in Wellington, for example, have attended meetings and had been planning to lobby in support of a National Review. The announcement that a review would go ahead provides an opportunity for Government, Regional Councils and Service Users of the scheme to challenge and tackle the inconsistency.

It would seem the time has come to ensure the partnership you spoke of at the New Plymouth meeting between people with disabilities, community organisations, regional councils and the Government through the Ministry of Transport work together to develop some terms of reference for a review that sends us all in the same direction.

Yours sincerely

Janine Stewart  
**DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY**

Draft Media Release  
Embargoed Until . . .

### More Money for Public Transport

Public transport received a significant boost today with the Government announcing changes to funding systems that could nearly double the amount available for public transport over the next three years.

As a result of today's announcements current spending of \$46 million on public transport could be boosted by \$27 million per annum within three years. If capital expenditure from projects already under investigation was also included total extra funding could exceed \$47 million, said Transport Minister Mark Gosche and Associate Minister Judith Tizard.

"This would more than meet our pre-election pledge to increase spending by \$20 million per annum. This Government has a strong commitment to public transport. We see it as a key method of improving accessibility in our cities. It is also at least part of the answer to the congestion problems our major cities face."

"One way of helping improve public transport which doesn't require lengthy legislative change, and so can be done immediately, is to remove the barriers to funding."

The key change is a move towards paying regional councils for the number of people carried by passenger transport. Under the new system, the Government will fund councils using a per-passenger subsidy.

"Put simply, the more people the local authorities can encourage to use public transport, the greater the financial support from the Government. The more public transport use grows, the more money the government will give it to grow even more."

"The rates of subsidy are yet to be determined but the current subsidy levels are to be used as a base. I expect the new rate to be struck before the end of the year."

Mr Gosche said related changes to public transport funding included removing two caps on existing funding.

The Government would remove the \$46.2 m cap on passenger transport service grant and under patronage funding will allow the grants to grow as patronage grows. Regional councils that invest in services that people actually use will receive more support.

In addition, the government would remove the current cap on capital funding for alternatives to roading.

“These caps have been arbitrary. By removing them we are helping regional councils invest in public transport.”

Mr Gosche also signalled further changes to public transport to come

“In this package we have looked at what can be done immediately to remove barriers to public transport investment, under existing legislation. Longer term I also plan to review the way public transport is funded and managed.”

Mr Gosche said this longer term review would include total mobility (a taxi voucher scheme for the transport disadvantaged) and would be associated with work on other possible changes to road safety and the road management system.

“I plan to report back to Cabinet on these matters before the end of the year.”

ends