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## **Report 01.276**

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Report to the Passenger Transport Committee  
By Anthony Cross, Manager Public Transport

### **Public Transport Update**

#### **1. Purpose**

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

#### **2. Rail Service Improvements**

##### **2.1 Paraparaumu and Upper Hutt**

The new rail timetable is currently due to take effect on Tuesday 5 June (the day after Queen's Birthday).

The most noticeable improvement in service levels will be on the Paraparaumu Line, where before 9.00 am on weekdays there will be nine departures from Paraparaumu at 0520, 0555, 0615, 0640, 0700, 0718, 0740, 0800 and 0840, compared to the present five departures at 0552, 0635, 0700, 0716 and 0800.

Outside peak periods the main feature is that the Paraparaumu, Upper Hutt and Johnsonville lines will all have services every 30 minutes seven days a week during the day, with hourly services in the evenings. The weekend evenings "gap" on the Paraparaumu Line will be filled, but the Upper Hutt Line will have its service reduced from a 30 minute frequency to hourly on Saturday evenings.

... Draft versions of the proposed timetables are attached (**Attachment 1**).

Bus timetables with train connections (ie, all Kapiti Coast, Porirua and Hutt Valley timetables) will need to be revised in the next month, as most morning peak bus-train

connections will be affected by the new train timetables. Work on some other projects will be delayed as a consequence.

## 2.2 Masterton

The Masterton rail service improvement kick start project has previously been seen as being two projects. The refurbishment of carriages appropriate to the Masterton line being one and the introduction of a third commuter train as the other. The first is included in the Council's proposed annual plan and the second is shown in the introduction to the plan as a possible further addition if there is community support for it. Transfund New Zealand has responded negatively to the refurbishment proposal while the sale of Tranz Metro Wellington is pending. Council officers have proposed an alternative project which is the provision of a third commuter train on an hired basis, at an estimated cost of \$150,000 per three months, with the question of carriage refurbishment to be addressed once the sale is complete. Transfund are expected to agree to this alternative at their next Board meeting. Once approved Tranz Rail will be instructed to implement this new service. To enable this to happen the Committee needs to agree to the substitution of the original refurbishment project for this hired extra train service. In the long run the outcome will be the same.

## 3. Stagecoach Wellington Improvements

... **Attachment 2** is the leaflet which announced the “kick-start funding” services which were introduced from 12 February 2001.

... **Attachment 3** is the leaflet which announced similar improvements on the Eastbourne route from 26 February 2001.

On 1 April 2001 a new Sunday timetable began on the Miramar route, featuring a 20 minute frequency between 9.00 am and 6.00 pm (instead of the previous 30 minutes). This change was also a “kick-start funding” project.

We are now working on a further batch of improvements to Stagecoach Wellington services to be introduced on 1 July 2001, which will include:

Route	
4 Island Bay Express	Additional trip at 7.35 am, to Molesworth Street
7 Kowhai Park	Earlier first morning trip, at 6.40 am
7 Kingston	All Friday only services to run Monday to Friday, thereby increasing frequency to 15 minutes between 6.30 pm and 7.00 pm, and 30 minutes between 8.00 pm and 11.00 pm. Sunday service to run half-hourly instead of hourly before 6.00 pm.
10 Newtown Park	Later last trip at 6.15 pm
14 Wilton, Kilbirnie via Roseneath	30-minute frequencies to operate Monday to Friday evenings and on Saturdays and Sundays instead of every 45 minutes.

43/44 Strathmore, Khandallah	Additional late morning peak trip from Khandallah at 8.45 am. Improved early morning service from Strathmore on Saturdays and Sundays. Full Sunday timetable on Khandallah route in place of alternating Khandallah and Johnsonville trips (coinciding with introduction of half-hourly service on Johnsonville Line on Sundays).
13 Mairangi and 22/23 Mairangi, Southgate, Houghton Bay	Weekday departures from Mairangi at 8.25 am and 8.35 am in place of current 8.30 am trip. Early first trips from Southgate and Houghton Bay on Saturdays (at 7.00 am and 8.00 am respectively). 4.50 pm and 5.50 pm trips from Railway Station extended to Houghton Bay. 45-minute frequency between Mairangi and Newtown Park on Sundays replaced with half-hourly service extended alternately to Southgate and Houghton Bay.

These changes will conclude a general upgrading of Sunday services over the last several years to reflect the change in the nature of Sundays. All routes which have a Saturday service will now also have a Sunday service\*. As a result, the Sunday timetables will now be operated on all public holidays, instead of the current confusing mixture of Saturday and Sunday services on various holidays. This change has already been implemented for Newlands Coach Services routes and on Mana Coach Services' Kapiti routes, and will be progressively introduced in the rest of the Region as services are reviewed.

\* Apart from routes which operate only in peak periods, the following Stagecoach Wellington routes have no weekend services:

- 7 Kowhai Park
- 8 Aro Street
- 10 Newtown Park
- 12 Karori West, South Karori
- 17 Karori Park via Victoria University
- 18 "Campus Connection"
- 20 Highbury, Mt Victoria
- 21 Wrights Hill, Vogeltown
- 42 Miramar Heights
- 29 "Southern Shopper"

#### 4. **Newlands and Churton Park New Services**

The new Newlands, Grenada Village, Churton Park and Johnsonville West services introduced on 16 December 2000 continue to show an extremely worthwhile increase in patronage overall, compared to the equivalent months last year. Revised timetables with additional peak services came into effect on 19 March 2001. Although it became apparent early on that these extra services would be necessary, they were not able to be implemented until sufficient extra buses were available, the supply of both new and

second-hand buses being a critical issue for operators throughout the country at present.

The revised timetables also allow extra time for buses to get from Courtenay Place to Lambton Interchange in the evening peak period. Traffic congestion continues to affect the reliability of buses between these points, particularly in Dixon and Manners Streets. The issue has been raised with Wellington City Council, but no additional bus priority measures are expected to be implemented in the CBD until the Inner City Bypass has been approved/built.

Kerry Waddell of Mana Coach Services, Councillor McDavitt and I have now attended two meetings organised by the Newlands Paparangi Progressive Association to discuss issues relating to the new services.

The main outstanding issue relates to services to Paparangi and Grenada Village. A relatively small area around the “Paparangi Shops” and Paparangi School is now up to 500 metres from the main bus route along Helston Road, whereas the route previously diverted off Helston Road. The area is now served instead by the new Route 55 Grenada Village service, but this route operates less frequently and not at all in the evenings and weekends.

Ms Waddell and I have undertaken to review the level of service on Route 55. This will not be able to be done immediately however, given the other projects we are jointly committed to.

## 5. Other Services

### 5.1 Kenepuru Hospital - Porirua Citylink

... **Attachment 4** is the timetable leaflet for the expanded Citylink service, which was begun on a commercial basis by Mana Coach Services last year following the opening of the Porirua Mega Centre retail development and has now been extended to include Kenepuru Hospital as a “kick-start funding” project. A letter of thanks from the Capital and Coast District Health Board is also attached (**Attachment 5**).

### 5.2 Porirua–Hutt Valley via SH58

Planning for this service is well underway. The successful tenderer was Mana Coach Services. We are aiming for a start date before the end of June. Initially the service will provide four trips from Porirua Station (via Cannons Creek, Waitangirua, Ascot Park and Whitby) to Upper Hutt in the morning peak period, with the same number of return journeys between 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm in the evenings.

### 5.3 **Kapiti Coast Bus Improvements**

... A leaflet explaining the proposed changes to bus routes and service levels in Paraparaumu and Raumati area (**Attachment 6**) was distributed to households in the week of Anzac Day.

This is the first time we have distributed a description of proposed route changes in this fashion, and reflects the need to improve the effectiveness of our consultation on major service change proposals.

### 5.4 **Otaki Bus Service**

... A survey (**Attachment 7**) was distributed to all households in Otaki, subject to the usual difficulties of some people not receiving them or throwing them out because they were folded amongst “junk mail” in their letterboxes.

... 288 people responded to the survey, 58% of whom were aged 60 or over. 224 expressed interest in a weekday shoppers’ service, whereas 103 were interested in a peak period service. Users of the Thompson Passenger Service (Otaki Levin Bus Lines) commercial service to Paraparaumu on Wednesdays and Fridays are very loyal to it, such that we have received a 195 signature petition (**Attachment 8**) requesting that “Wellington Regional Council appoint Otaki Levin Bus Lines to run all buses on the increased schedule planned between Otaki-Levin & Otaki-Paraparaumu”.

It is also apparent from the survey however that there are people unaware of the existence of the Thompsons service. We have begun discussions with Thompsons with a view to promoting the service by producing a timetable brochure and distributing it to all households in the area as a first step towards improving Otaki’s public transport.

... Comments received with the survey responses are attached (**Attachment 9**).

### 5.5 **Paekakariki Shoppers' Service**

... A similar survey (**Attachments 10 & 11**) was also distributed to the 630 households in Paekakariki. 77 people responded, 57% of them aged over 60. 64 respondents expressed an interest in using a shoppers’ service to and from Coastlands. The intention is to provide a service for people who find it difficult to get to and from Paekakariki Railway Station, although we did not make this sufficiently clear in the survey.

It is proposed that a 3 days a week service will be introduced, leaving Paekakariki at approximately 10.00 am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and returning from Coastlands at approximately 1.00 pm. The service will be introduced at the same time as the major changes to Kapiti bus services, and will also serve the Leinster Avenue area which is proposed for deletion from the Raumati bus route.

### 5.6 **Kapiti After Midnight Service**

This service is carrying few passengers and is unlikely to be continued after the end of the one-year trial unless patronage improves.

## 5.7 Kapiti to Kenepuru and Wellington Hospitals

We have been working with Capital and Coast District Health Board to trial an interpeak bus service for people with appointments at, or visiting, the two hospitals. The Board is prepared to commit itself to providing Kapiti clients with specialist appointments to fit in with the bus timetable. This is critical to the trial's success given that a similar service some years ago – operated commercially by Mana Coach Services - failed largely because of the lack of co-ordination between medical appointments and the transport timetable.

## 6. Recommendations

- (1) *That the Masterton service rail carriage refurbishment kick start project be replaced with a third Masterton peak commuter rail service using hired carriages subject to Transfund New Zealand kick start funding approval.*
- (2) *That the petition from Liz Mikkelsen of Otaki and 195 others, be received, and that the petitioners be assured that the Council will be working with Thompson Passenger Service Ltd to improve and promote its Otaki-Paraparaumu bus service, subject to the provisions of Transfund New Zealand's Competitive Pricing Procedures.*

Report prepared by:

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- Attachment 1 : Proposed New Train Timetables**
- Attachment 2 : Kick-Start Funding Services – 12 February 2001**
- Attachment 3 : Kick-Start Funding Services – 26 February 2001**
- Attachment 4 : Cityline Expanded Services Timetable**
- Attachment 5 : Letter from Capital & Coast District Health Board**
- Attachment 6 : Proposed Changes in Paraparaumu and Raumati Area**
- Attachment 7 : Otaki Services Survey**
- Attachment 8 : Otaki Services Petition**
- Attachment 9 : Otaki Services Petition Comments**
- Attachment 10 : Paekakariki Shoppers Survey**
- Attachment 11 : Paekakariki Shoppers Survey Comments**