

Report 05.136
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Committee Passenger Transport Committee
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Transport Information Bulletin

1. Purpose

To provide information on transport issues not covered by other reports.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Quality Partnership Agreement meetings

Attached are the notes of the Wellington City and Hutt Valley QPA group meetings (**attachments 1 and 2**). Tranz Metro Wellington has now been invited to be a partner on both groups. Their representative attended the last Wellington City QPA meeting. These forums continue to serve a very useful function. We need to see how a similar group could be organised to cover the Porirua/Kapiti Coast area.

4. Visit of ARTA Board and CEO

At the request of the ARTA Board we hosted them on Tuesday 15 March. We took them, at their suggestion, to the Lambton bus/rail interchange, on a train trip to Waterloo station and then visited Petone station. Prior to the trip we provided some insight into our current passenger transport system and what we were intending to do going forward to enhance mode share. Wellington City Council officers provided some thoughts on their City's urban and transport planning processes and explained the City's current drive to reduce road accidents through area wide traffic calming techniques driven by a community consultation campaign.

ARTA personnel visiting the region were:

- Tony Parsons and Rabin Rabindran, both ARTA Board Directors
- Alan Thompson, the ARTA Chief Executive and

- Mark Lambert their Passenger Transport Service Delivery Manager.

5. PTAG

Land Transport New Zealand, after submissions by the Bus and Coach Association, reinstated their Passenger Transport Advisory Group.

On 17 March Anthony Cross and Rhona Nicol attended the first meeting of the Passenger Transport Advisory Group under the auspices of Land Transport New Zealand. The previous meeting was in July last year.

It was encouraging to hear that the phase-in period for patronage funding has been extended for an extra year, until July 2007.

In addition to the Ministry of Transport's Total Mobility Review (about which there will be a presentation from the Ministry at the Committee meeting) there are several reviews of procurement and regulatory environments currently underway:

- Land Transport New Zealand is reviewing the passenger transport procurement procedures under the Land Transport Management Act, to replace the competitive pricing procedures which were developed under the previous legislation. The new procedures will be focussed less on competition and the tendering process and more on establishing contracts which enable quality partnerships to be established and maintained.
- Auckland Regional Transport Authority (ARTA) is also reviewing its procurement procedures in parallel with the LTNZ review.
- The Ministry of Transport is reviewing the regulatory environment for passenger transport in Auckland, for which input will be sought from other regions in recognition that many of the issues being addressed will not be specific to Auckland.

6. Human Rights Commission Inquiry

Councillors Evans and Aitken, John Anderson (Access and Mobility representative, RLTC) and Anthony Cross attended a Regional Councils Forum organised by the Human Rights Commission in Christchurch on 22 March, at which Rosslyn Noonan, Chief Human Rights Commissioner, led a discussion based on the draft recommendations from the HRC's Inquiry into Accessible Public Land Transport for People with Disabilities.

7. Petone ferry tender

The ferry contract will be ready for release in about a fortnight, following a legal review of a number of changes and improvements made to the contract and tender documents. Some of these changes are specific to ferry operation; others will be incorporated in future bus service contracts.

8. RTO meeting in Hamilton

There was a meeting of regional transport officers held in Hamilton on Monday and Tuesday, 21 and 22 March. The closure of Wellington airport, from time to time, reduced the attendance of government officials. There were two key agreements reached at the meeting. That the current LTNZ patronage funding scheme needed to be reviewed in light of the Land Transport Act objectives and this will be communicated to LTNZ. A core group of officers were appointed to work with LTNZ and others on a review of the bus service procurement procedures, Rhona Nicol being one of them.

9. Staff changes

Three new staff members have joined the Division since the last Committee meeting. Chris Ham, our Transport Infrastructure Manager, has detailed knowledge on passenger rail infrastructure and in particular rolling stock procurement. Raymond Malcolm, Contract and Quality Coordinator, fills the vacancy created when Rob Braddock was promoted to Contract and Quality Manager. Finally Richard Nichol, project administrator, on a short term contract is assisting with the Metlink, ticketing and real time projects.

10. Recommendation

That the report be received.

Report prepared by:

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Attachments:

- 1 – Notes from Wellington QPA meeting, 9 March 2005
- 2 – Notes from Hutt Valley QPA meeting, 3 March 2005