



Report 05.304
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Committee Passenger Transport Committee
Author Rhona Nicol Manager Transport Procurement

Transport Information Bulletin

1. Purpose

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

2. Significance of 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. Financial Information

Transport Division Financial Performance Statement 11 Months Ended 31st May 2005	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	YTD Var \$000	
Rates & Levies	24,831	24,831	0	-
Government Grants & Subsidies	25,357	26,186	(829)	U
External Revenue	97	157	(60)	U
	88	108	(20)	U
TOTAL INCOME	52,459	53,367	(908)	U
<i>less:</i>				
Personnel Costs	2,118	2,107	(11)	U
Materials,Supplies & Services	1,203	1,698	495	F
Travel & Transport Costs	69	63	(6)	U
Contractor & Consultants	2,604	2,931	326	F
Grants and Subsidies Expenditure	39,290	42,071	2,781	F
Internal Charges	4,310	4,285	(24)	U
Total Direct Expenditure	49,594	53,154	3,560	F
Financial Costs	249	248	(1)	U
Bad Debts	0	0	0	-
Corporate & Department Overheads	717	717	0	-
Depreciation	282	283	2	F
Loss(Gain) on Sale of Assets	(0)	0	0	F
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	50,842	54,404	3,561	F
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	1,617	(1,036)	2,653	F

YTD Actual v. Budget

For the period ending 31st May 2004 the division is showing an operating surplus variance of \$2,653K. This represents an \$829K unfavourable revenue variance on the YTD budget, with a \$3,561K favourable expenditure variance on the YTD budget.

The \$3,561K favourable expenditure variance consists of:-

- Release of Rail Kickstart Accrual. \$2,780k favourable
- Underspend of \$1,328K (F) on the following projects. Brand Promotion, Road Safety, Travel Demand Cycling Strategy, Travel Demand Car Pooling, Integrated/Electronic Ticketing Review, New Signage, Rail Carriage Refurbishments. Most of the projects have been rebudgeted to the 2005/06 year at an expenditure of \$1,228K. The total \$829K unfavourable revenue variance is primarily comprised of an unfavourable variance of \$662K due to the above underspent items.

Forecast May 2005 v. April 2005

Transport Division Financial Performance Statement 11 Months Ended 31st May 2005	May Forecast \$000	April Forecast \$000	FY Var \$000	
Rates & Levies	27,088	27,088	0	-
Government Grants & Subsidies	29,218	29,070	148	F
External Revenue	114	123	(10)	U
Investment Revenue	117	117	0	-
Internal Revenue	2,276	2,276	0	-
TOTAL INCOME	58,814	58,675	139	F
<i>less:</i>				
Personnel Costs	2,376	2,353	(23)	U
Materials,Supplies & Services	1,459	1,549	90	F
Travel & Transport Costs	74	78	5	F
Contractor & Consultants	3,083	3,258	174	F
Grants and Subsidies Expenditure	43,294	43,209	(86)	U
Internal Charges	4,717	4,717	(0)	U
Total Direct Expenditure	55,003	55,164	161	F
Financial Costs	271	271	0	-
Bad Debts	0	0	0	-
Corporate & Department Overheads	783	783	0	-
Depreciation	304	303	(1)	U
Loss(Gain) on Sale of Assets	(0)	(0)	0	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	56,361	56,521	160	F
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	2,453	2,155	298	F

May v. April forecast results in an operating surplus of \$298K. Total income has increased by \$139K and total expenditure has decreased by \$160K.

The key changes are:-

- \$50K (F) Wairarapa Log Freight has not commenced as yet- awaiting NZ\$ to come down as to make export of logs more viable. This is 100% funded hence external revenue has also decreased by \$50K(U).
- \$50K (F) Decrease in the cost of Western Line project with a corresponding decrease in revenue of \$25K(U).
- \$62K (F) The cost of Rail Carriage Refurbishments has decreased for 04/05 with a corresponding decrease in Revenue of \$37K(U).
- Inflation on bus contracts was increased in April forecast, but the correlating revenue was not. Thus in the May forecast this under accrual of revenue was corrected, which resulted in a \$237K(F) variance between the two forecasts.

4. Text Messaging

New service – “txtbus” (Text Bus)

On 8 July 2005 we are launching a new text messaging service called txtbus for bus users in the Hutt Valley. Txtbus will enable users to request and receive bus timetable information via a text message on their mobile phone.

This service offers another way of finding out timetable information besides paper timetables, the website or phoning the call centre. It will be particularly useful when users are not at a bus stop or if a bus stop does not have timetable information.

Txtbus will appeal to regular bus users with mobile phones, particularly young people. As a result, we are launching the service on 8 July 2005 which is the end of Term 2 when teens have varied travel patterns during the school holidays and will most likely find this service helpful. At a cost of 20 cents to the user and by keeping the service confined to two simple queries, early trials suggest we will get a good uptake.

This new service builds on the major bus improvements already introduced in the Hutt Valley in October 2003. Txtbus will be trialled in the Hutt Valley and then rolled out to the rest of the region later this year. At this stage the times of services provided in the text message are based on the printed timetable and are an approximate only. In a couple of years we anticipate that Txtbus will offer ‘real time’ information so users will know the actual bus running time.

We are distributing a leaflet to promote Txt Bus in the Hutt Valley from 4 July 2005. A copy of this will be put in your pigeon hole shortly. There will also be posters, a press release, an email update for Hutt Valley bus users, a news story on our website and an article in Elements.

5. Quality Partnership Agreement Meetings

Attached are the notes from the Wellington QPA group (**attachment 1**) held on the 8 June 2005.

The next Hutt Valley QPA group is to be held on the 7 July 2005 at Upper Hutt City Council. The notes from this meeting will therefore be tabled at the next Committee meeting.

6. Communication

There is nothing additional to communicate.

7. Recommendation

That the Committee receives the report.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Rhona Nicol
Manager Transport
Procurement

Dave Watson
Divisional Manager Transport

Attachment 1: Wellington QPA minutes