



Report 05.495
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Committee Passenger Transport
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Transport Services Update

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on the current key passenger transport service issues, both bus, rail and ferry.

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. Rail Services Update

3.1 New EMUs

Preliminary discussions were held with four suppliers during August. Initial feedback is positive and discussions will continue over the next few months. These types of discussions have helped show the sincerity of Greater Wellington in moving the project forward. It is intended that similar discussions are held with Asian and Australian suppliers in November and December.

Halcrow have been appointed by Greater Wellington to manage the EMU procurement process up to contract signature. Key members of the Halcrow team will be introduced to the Committee in due course.

Some initial work has commenced on developing the infrastructure interface requirements for the new EMUs with ONTRACK.

3.2 SW Cars

This is the subject of a separate paper.

A tendering process is currently in place for the retention of a consultancy to provide engineering and project management support to Greater Wellington.

3.3 Asset and Safety Management Systems

Greater Wellington is currently advertising for a consultancy to develop and implement these systems for the Council's rail operations.

3.4 Western Corridor Rail Upgrade

Council officers have had discussions with TMG on undertaking a further operational analysis of the Western Corridor. This will focus on the feasibility of the 15 minute service during peak hours and the criticality of North-South Junction and the Wellington Approach.

3.5 English Electrics

The next 2 car set of refurbished Johnsonville trains is now in operation. This car set was delayed in going into operation as it also received new overhauled bogies. The first of the Hutt Valley 3 car sets has now gone into preparation for refurbishment and should be completed within the next few weeks.

4. Bus Services Update

4.1 Whitby

Significant improvements to Whitby's bus service will take effect on Saturday 1 October. The changes will affect the two bus routes which operate between Whitby and Porirua City Centre and Porirua Station. The improvements will include:

- Services every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday on route 67, the most important route, which will also follow a faster more direct route via Omapere Street and Whitford Brown Avenue.
- Seven days a week hourly service to the Ayton Drive, Crows Nest area of Whitby (route 65 via Papakowhai)
- Later evening services, until 10.00pm Monday to Saturday and 8.30pm on Sundays and public holidays instead of 6.30pm currently.
- Routes 66 (Paremata Station) and 67 (Porirua Station) extended into the new Navigation Drive and Samwell Drive area at the east end of Whitby
- Other minor route changes to minimise journey times - there will be new bus stops on Discovery Drive so that buses no longer need to operate through the Whitby Village Centre carpark, and buses will no longer use The Companionway but will stay on Discovery Drive, the main road through the area (use of The Companionway dates back to the time when this was as far as Whitby extended and buses used it to turn around). The main Whitby route will no longer operate via Ascot Park, and the terminal loop on route 61 will be changed slightly.

We have been working with Porirua City Council to put new bus stops in place on new or changed sections of route, but some stops will be temporary until

PCC has gone through its bylaw process of consulting with affected property owners.

4.2 Newlands

The long-awaited changes to bus routes in the Newlands area will take effect on Monday 31 October. Bus routes in this area were last changed in December 2000 but, although they were very successful overall in attracting increased patronage (in the order of 40%, mainly due to extending the route and improving the timetable on the Churton Park route and extending all services through the CBD to Courtenay Place) there were outstanding issues relating to the route through Paparangi and the level of service to Grenada Village. In addition, the Woodridge subdivision has expanded rapidly since then. In addressing these issues some existing users will be unhappy that they now have further to walk to their nearest bus stop or that their route is slightly longer than before. However, our consultation last year elicited 381 responses of which 60% were positive. This is an extremely pleasing result given that usually, only those who will be disadvantaged by a change take the time to respond.

4.3 Otaki

The contract for the Otaki bus service for the next five years has been let to Madge Coachlines Ltd, a long-established Manawatu bus company, over the present incumbent operator, Tranzit Group Ltd. The new timetable will be operated six days a week from Monday 31 October, using a super-low-floor wheelchair accessible bus. Because of the extent to which public transport has been invisible in the Otaki community (it is widely perceived that there is no public transport), Otaki will be one of the first communities to see the new Metlink bus stop signs.

4.4 Wairarapa

We have asked Tranz Metro to put together a proposal for a minor interim improvement in off peak and weekend services on the Wairarapa line.

4.5 Trolley Bus

Trolley bus negotiations are progressing well with Stagecoach. We are hoping to complete the process by the end of October.

5. Petone – Wellington Ferry Trial

A start date for this new service has yet to be agreed upon however the proposed month of October 2005 still appears to be achievable. Now that the new boat has undergone sea trials and certification the next stage will be to determine the most appropriate berthing point at Petone Wharf in conjunction with East by West and Hutt City Council.

6. Communication

There is nothing to communicate.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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