



Report 06.103
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Committee Passenger Transport Committee
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Transport Information Bulletin

1. Purpose

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

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision 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 Update

The financial update will be presented to the Passenger Transport Committee on the 6 April 2006.

4. Rail Update

4.1 SW Cars

Toll continues to work to schedule, though a slight slippage in the delivery of 11 MkII carriages from the UK has occurred. However, these will still arrive in time to meet Toll's construction timescale. The first of the existing MkII carriages at the Hutt Valley workshops has been stripped down and is being sent to Hillside to allow preliminary construction to commence. Interior design is complete. Attention will now focus on inspecting the condition of the MkII carriages from the UK and monitoring the detailed production progress of Toll.

4.2 EMUs

The Expressions of Interest documentation is substantially complete and ready for issue to the market. It is envisaged that this will be authorised by Land Transport New Zealand late April to enable issue in May. Our consultants, Halcrow, have continued to work on the detailed specifications for issue to the short listed manufacturers as part of a Request for Tenders later this year. This has included ensuring the input of Toll and ONTRACK. Input has also been

received from representatives of Transport 2000 and rail unions/staff groups through the Project Best Design Committee.

4.3 Asset Management

In order to obtain funding from Land Transport New Zealand for the new EMUs we have to have an asset management plan in place. We have taken the opportunity to expand the scope of the plan to include all transport infrastructures, which will thus satisfy the Council's own audit requirements for asset ownership. GHD will be undertaking the development of the asset management policy and plan. This will cover rail assets and also other key assets such as bus stop infrastructure.

5. Bus Update

5.1 Wellington School Bus Review

Further to our previous update, this review has commenced with newsletters and questionnaires sent to schools as the first stage of consultation. We have used the same format as in previous years when reviewing Hutt Valley school bus services which worked well. Feedback is due by 28 April 2006 and we plan to release tenders for the improved services on 3 July 2006.

5.2 Bus Monitoring Process Review

Following on from the review reported on previously, we have established a method by which we are able to collect reliable data for the purpose of monitoring bus services. In conjunction with Stagecoach we expect to have commenced this monitoring in the first week of April in an attempt to provide data on 'choke points' and the effect they have on bus running times.

We envisage a number of uses for this type of data, particularly assessment of bus timetables and statistical support for submissions to TA's in respect to bus priority measures.

5.3 Other Bus Tenders and Contracts

We are currently in negotiations with Stagecoach over tenders submitted for Upper Hutt local bus services which are due to commence in May 2006.

Completion of the tender round and negotiation has seen the contract for Otaihanga and Paekakariki shopper bus services awarded to the incumbent operator, Paraparaumu Taxi's Ltd. This contract is due to commence 30 April 2006.

Tenders will be released for Wairarapa bus services at the end of April 2006. Tenders will include service enhancement options for bus operators to make submissions on including an increase from the current two days per week Masterton township bus service to five days per week, a weekend train connection service between Martinborough and Featherston and an increase in service between Masterton and Featherston (including Masterton hospital) during the week.

6. Park n Ride Facilities

6.1 Solway Carpark Extension

Work has begun on extending the Solway Commuter Carpark by a further 24 spaces. The current layout was established in 2001 and provides 20 parks which have been at capacity for most of the last 12 months. The successful tenderer is local contractor Bruce Buchanan Ltd, who plans to have the work completed by the end of April. The contract price is \$53,801.40 and includes three new light standards.

6.2 Plimmerton Subway Extension

We have unfortunately been unable to progress this project any further since the last Passenger Transport Committee meeting. This is a result of being unsuccessful at arranging a meeting for ourselves and Porirua City Council with ONTRACK. We are hoping that this can be resolved, and that we will be able to report advancement of this project at the next Committee meeting.

6.3 New Cycle Boxes

Our cycling coordinator has been gathering information about our existing cycle lockers, including usage and demand. To help with additional demand for this facility 15 further boxes (storage for 30 bicycles) have been ordered and will go at Waterloo, Paraparaumu and Melling railway stations. It is the intention that the local authorities take over the day to day management of the boxes. The fifteen boxes will cost approximately \$2,500.00 each to manufacture.

7. Total Mobility Phase 1

Land Transport NZ have been contacted regarding the following request by the Committee at the 22 February 2006 meeting:

National Land Transport Agreement 2005/06: Officers were asked to consider adding to the contract, or writing a separate letter, that GW's signing was on the understanding Government's current policy or funding support on the issue does not change.

The latest response from Land Transport NZ is detailed below:

The current 2005/06 NLTP agreements are already in place (excluding the Total Mobility Phase 1 amendments), but an exchange of letters can create an amendment to the agreement. However it would be best placed to capture the amended wording when the 2006/07 National Land Transport Agreement is being reviewed.

Officers will continue to progress this issue with Land Transport NZ.

8. Metlink

The rollout of Metlink to all parts of the region's public transport network is continuing to go well:

8.1 Metlink Bus Stop Signs

New Metlink bus stop signs are gradually being installed around the region. Signs have been installed in Otaki and along bus routes 1 (Wellington to Island Bay), 2 (Miramar to Wellington Station) and 12 (Karori to Lyall Bay). The signs have a strong visual impact and we have received very positive comments about them.

Signs are currently being installed on the Kapiti Coast and this should be completed by the end of April. The rest of the region will be completed in the following order: Whitby/Papakowhai; Porirua/Titahi Bay; Churton Park/Newlands; Wellington North, West, East and South; Eastbourne; Wainuiomata; and the Wairarapa.

8.2 Metlink Timetables

There are now over 55 Metlink pocket-sized timetables available. This includes the recent addition of a Metlink harbour ferry timetable, which combines the Days Bay – Queens Wharf service and the new Petone – Queens Wharf service.

8.3 Metlink Promotional Campaign – June 2006

We propose to follow-up the launch of Metlink last October with a promotional campaign to remind and inform the public about the new name and the benefits of the Metlink network.

9. Marketing & Promotion

9.1 Annual Public Transport Satisfaction Monitoring Survey

This survey will be conducted in April again this year. Over the month there will be 750 random telephone interviews conducted around the Wellington region.

We have carried out this survey annually since 2003 and it provides very useful information to aid our decision making and benchmark our performance. This year the questionnaire will include additional questions about the awareness and understand of Metlink and new measures required for the draft Regional Passenger Transport Plan.

9.2 Victoria University - Metlink promotion

Metlink was promoted at Victoria University at the end of February during their Orientation Week (the first week of the new academic year). Metlink staff in tee-shirts and caps manned a portable Metlink exhibition stand. They handed out free Metlink timetable wallets, complete with the appropriate bus

timetables, and answered public transport queries. Over 1300 wallets were given away and these were very well received by the students.

This was a pilot promotion, which was very successful. We plan to run similar student promotions next year and at other appropriate times in the student calendar.

10. Integrated Ticketing

A lot of background work on this programme has occurred. There have been many discussions with local Public Transport (PT) service operators, particularly Stagecoach and Tranz Metro, to discuss ticketing concepts and requirements. Work is ongoing.

The next phase of this programme is significant as it will define the scope and cost of the programme and develop the business case for funding. It is at this point that a final decision to proceed or not, and when, can be made. If we proceed our recent research on this programme suggests it would take up to 5 years to fully implement.

11. Ministry of Transport Passenger Transport Procurement Review

The Ministry of Transport (MoT) is leading a review of bus and ferry procurement legislation. The review focuses on part two of the Transport Services Licensing Act 1989 (TSLA). There are concerns that the provisions of the TSLA related to contracted and commercial bus and ferry services do not serve the objectives of the 2002 New Zealand Transport Strategy and the Land Transport Management Act 2003.

MoT are preparing a discussion paper with input from local authorities and public transport operators. The discussion paper should be released late April with submissions closing at the end of May. Our intention is to assess the paper and prepare a draft submission for consideration by the Committee at its meeting on 25 May 2006.

12. QPA Meetings

Minutes of the combined Porirua/Kapiti Coast QPA meeting, held on 2 March 2006, the Hutt Valley QPA meeting, held on 9 March 2006 and the Wellington QPA meeting, held on 15 March 2006 are all attached (**attachment 1**).

13. Communication

There is nothing further to communicate at this stage.

14. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Receives the report.*

2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Divisional Manager

Attachment 1: Porirua/Kapiti Coast, Hutt Valley & Wellington QPA minutes