



Report 08.623  
Date 1 September 2008  
File TD/03/08/01

Committee Transport & Access Committee  
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## Wellington review

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the process for reviewing bus services in Wellington City (excluding Tawa).

### 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. Background

Greater Wellington has an ongoing programme for area-wide reviews. This is in accordance with *Passenger Transport Plan* policies which require all scheduled passenger transport services to be reviewed at least once every five years to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the community and reflect any changes such as shifts in demand (Policy 1.5).

Area-wide reviews provide an opportunity to maximise the effectiveness and efficiency of the passenger transport network by allowing consideration of the interaction between all routes within a larger geographical area.

The last comprehensive area-wide review of Wellington City was completed almost twenty years ago, although a number of service-level reviews have been undertaken since. The lack of any more recent area-wide reviews appears due to a previous view that this was not necessary due to the fixed nature of the trolley bus network. This is not the view now, particularly given the increases in trolley capacity gained from the new trolley buses.

### 4. Scope and objectives of the review

The 2008/09 Annual Plan states that a review of Wellington diesel buses should be completed by June 2009 within a budget of \$100,000. However, the

scope has now been expanded to include trolley buses and the full review will now take place over two years.

#### **4.1 Study area and scope**

The study area is the geographical area formed by Wellington City Council boundaries, including all of North Wellington (i.e. Churton Park, Newlands) but excluding Tawa, which is included as part of the Porirua Review.

The scope for the Wellington Review includes all regular and purpose specific bus services including trolley bus, diesel bus and school bus services within the study area. The review has been extended to include trolley bus services to enable consideration of network-wide issues including the best location for additional trolley bus capacity.

There are also a number of other initiatives that must be considered within the review scope, including: *Real Time Information*, *Integrated ticketing*, *Golden Mile Development Plan* (WCC), *Wellington City Bus Priority Plan* (WCC) and operator bus fleet upgrades.

The review does not include rail services or bus services serving catchments primarily outside the study area nor does it include any changes to the trolley overhead wire network.

#### **4.2 Objectives and principles**

The primary objective of the review is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of passenger transport services within the study area. Other objectives include improved reliability, coverage, connections, access, and service levels while ensuring sufficiency capacity to meet demand and value for money.

Key principles for review include:

- Strategic approach – consider wider picture before drilling into the detail
- Integrated approach – consider all related initiatives and activities (e.g. *Real Time Information*, Golden Mile improvements)
- Stakeholder and community engagement – engage with operators and the community to help identify issues and test options, work with Wellington City Council and operators to implement proposals.

#### **4.3 Terms of reference**

The scope will be finalised and terms of reference for the review completed by the end of October, to allow for input from key stakeholders.

## 5. Review process

The first stage (issues and needs) of the Wellington Review should be completed by June 2009 with the second stage (detailed network planning) completed by June 2010 with implementation in 2010/11.

The full review has been extended beyond the Annual Plan target of June 2009 to allow time for completion of a number of projects currently underway including the Porirua Review, Kapiti Review and Newlands changes. The last two are additional projects arising from operator proposals.

Key stakeholders such as Wellington City Council and operators will be involved and consulted throughout the process. The review process will also include full public consultation, which is likely to be undertaken on a suburban sector basis to focus on the issues most important in each area.

A two-stage consultation process is proposed for each sector.

- Primary consultation – issues and needs. This will involve seeking community input on existing issues and any needs not currently being met, along with any other comments or suggestions for improvement.
- Secondary consultation – option testing. This will allow the community to provide comments on the specific services proposed.

If there are any additional issues arising from the secondary consultation further “micro” consultation may be carried out as required.

## 6. Communication

No communication is required at this stage.

## 7. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Notes that the review of Wellington bus services will include diesel and trolley bus services and will target June 2010 for completion.***

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