



Report 09.440
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Committee Transport & Access Committee
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Service review update - July 2009

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on the status of current service reviews.

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. Kapiti bus service review

The changes arising from the review have now been finalised. The last step in the process was the approval (by Kapiti District Council) of the bus-stop sites. The changes will be implemented on 17 August, following an extensive publicity campaign.

The changes to the Paekakariki and Otaihanga services (which will become “dial-a-ride” services) will be introduced at the same time.

4. Porirua bus service review

As previously reported, the public submissions process has been completed. Officers are now communicating with stakeholders and will be holding a series of workshops to look at some of issues raised by submitters in more detail. The first of these workshops is a stakeholder meeting planned for 24 July 2009. These workshops will provide input into the final bus route design.

Implementation was planned for October but is now likely to be early 2010 to ensure proper consideration of issues and to allow time for this further stakeholder involvement.

5. Wellington public transport review

Public consultation commenced on 29 June, and runs until 27 July. More than 50,000 households within the study area (Wellington City, south of Granada North) have received a copy of the consultation document. This first stage of the review is primarily intended to collect information about the Wellington community's public transport needs.

To date (half way through the consultation process), over 1000 replies have been received.

The following are planned in addition to the public consultation:

- Direct consultation with key stakeholders, including:
 - Wellington City Council and the public transport operators, who will be closely involved throughout the process
 - Specific interest groups, such as iwi, disability groups, and representatives of public transport users. These groups are likely to be consulted through workshop type sessions
 - Organisations with major public transport requirements, such as the hospital, airport and universities. These will be consulted directly
- Market research into public preferences.

The above information will be used to build a picture of the community's current and future public transport requirements, which will be used to design possible service changes. These will be tested using focus groups, before the public is consulted again in March or April 2010. Changes resulting from this process will be implemented in mid 2011.

5.1 Collaboration with Wellington City Council

We are working with WCC as reflected in the following three complementary pieces of work designed to improve the functioning of the PT system in the city, all conceived around the same time and designed to address different but related needs:

1. **WCC Golden Mile project** (including the decision to reopen Manners Mall) is designed to address the most serious inefficiencies in the bus route through the city. The project was developed partly from the Ngauranga to Airport Plan and partly from discussions with bus operators who assisted in identifying the practical problems they were experiencing every day.
2. **GW Central Area Bus Operational Review** is intended to identify options and recommend a pathway for improving the efficiency and reliability of bus operations through the Wellington central area and along the length of the Golden Mile, particularly during peak periods. The review is primarily focused on bus operations and assumes the most serious inefficiencies of the current Golden Mile route are already addressed (i.e. Manners Mall

and other projects identified in the Bus Priority Plan). Opus International Consultants have been commissioned to undertake this work and are expected to report back shortly.

3. **Wellington Public Transport Review** is the first comprehensive review of Wellington City wide public transport services for almost 20 years and will also consider how bus services interconnect with other services such as rail but in particular the Johnsonville Rail line, harbour ferry services and the Cable Car. This review is expected to take two years to complete, and will examine trade-offs between service levels (frequency) and service coverage (where the services go). This review is not intended to revisit the location of the route through the city and in fact relies on the Golden Mile improvements already approved to address existing reliability issues which make delivering appropriate service levels very difficult.

These reviews and the relationships between them have been carefully thought through and the order of the projects is very deliberate. All work is predicated on the bus route through the CBD (as amended by the Golden Mile bus project) remaining where it is.

5.2 Central area operational review

The operational review is continuing. The need for detailed survey data has become apparent partly due to difficulties in obtaining this information from operators. A pilot survey was recently carried out with a detailed survey planned that will look at boardings and travel times at all stops along the Golden Mile. A draft report will be finalised once the survey information has been analysed.

6. Johnsonville Town Centre bus improvements

Wellington City Council has now installed new short term shelters at the Johnsonville Hub as shown in the photo below.



Officers are continuing to work with Wellington City Council towards further improvements as reported at the last meeting. A submission has also been lodged on a notified resource consent for the redevelopment of the Johnsonville shopping centre. The proposed redevelopment creates some significant risks for public transport but there is an opportunity to develop a high quality integrated public transport hub with bus stops outside two of the entrances to the new shopping centre and linking through to the railway station. We are hoping to work through the consenting process and with Wellington City Council to achieve a positive outcome that delivers on this opportunity.

7. Communication

All service changes will be comprehensively communicated.

8. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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