



Report 15.54
Date 17 February 2015
File E/12/01/04

Committee Council

Notice of motion: Cr Paul Bruce

Councillor Bruce has given notice of his intention to move the following motion, pertaining to no cost bus transfers within Wellington city, at Council's meeting on 25 February 2015:

That the Council:

1. *Agrees that a six month trial of free transfers for Wellington city bus electronic card users be included in the draft 2015/16 Annual Plan.*

Background information

1. The Regional Public Transport Plan signed off in June last year included improved fare structure proposals with integrated ticketing. However, public transport users may not see those improvements until after new bus tenders are signed off in 2017/18.
2. A 6 month trial is suggested during winter/spring 2015, a period that will offer maximum benefit to commuters. The trial would pre-empt the planned rollout of free transfers with integrated ticketing, but provide useful data for eventual region wide implementation, with a review early 2016.
3. The New Zealand Transport Agency's report on service changes and revenue p72 (relating to Hamilton Bus Services) <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/research/reports/518/docs/518.pdf> states:

"From what we can ascertain, a two-hour free transfer was introduced [on Hamilton buses] in October 2007, and this seemed to have contributed to a [permanent] 6% jump in off-peak weekday patronage and a 16% jump in weekend patronage."

This suggests that the introduction of free transfers ought to precede significant route design as, without free transfers, passenger demand will be lower and trip patterns will reflect fare minimising behaviour, as much as desired trips.

4. Given that the financial implications are uncertain, increased revenue or costs could be split evenly between the operator and the Council. However, free transfers for the Hutt Valley

NZBus fleet work well, and it is assumed that the operator could utilise a variation of that software within Wellington city at a relatively low cost.

5. Improving the effectiveness of public transport is one of the New Zealand Transport Agency's five strategic priorities, and using smarter technology contributes to this.
6. Transfer example:
 - An Island Bay resident travelling to Kilbirnie Recreational Centre with a two zone ticket rather than a three zone.
7. Existing free transfers:
 - Hutt Valley Flier (NZBUS)
 - Beacon Hill shuttle
 - Paraparaumu: Kapiti Plus ticket
 - Porirua: Mana coaches monthly paper pass.

References (click for links):

[Integrated Fares and Ticketing Programme Update 10 December 2014](#) (GWRC Report 14.630)

[Regional Land Transport Strategy \(RLTS\) 2010-2040](#)

[Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan](#)