

Report 15.537
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Committee Sustainable Transport
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Report on the Sustainable Transport Committee meeting 27 October 2015

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the Sustainable Transport Committee (the Committee) meeting of 24 September 2014.

2. Public Participation

Mike Mellor spoke to a number of items on the agenda, while Nigel Foster spoke on providing public transport services to cater for events such as the Rugby World Cup final on Sunday 1 November 2015.

3. Reports

3.1 IFT fares policies and transitional approach

The Committee received the IFT fares policies and transitional approach report, which outlines the planning and proposed approach to fares transition in the lead up to integrated fares and ticketing (IFT).

Officers have proposed a number of principles to guide the transition to IFT.

The Committee discussed transition issues related to the fares policy intent set out in the Regional Public Transport Plan, including discounted school student fares and off-peak discounts. It was noted that under the definition in the Regional Public Transport Plan a 50% concession fare would apply on all services for children and young adults aged from five to 18 (or until they leave secondary school if that is later)..

3.2 Public Transport Transformation Programme – communication and stakeholder engagement strategy

The Committee received the Public Transport Transformation Programme communication and stakeholder engagement strategy, which has been

developed to build understanding and support for the Public Transport Transformation Programme.

The communication and engagement strategy provides a framework to facilitate integrated communications across all aspects of the programme. The Committee discussed the aims and objectives of the strategy, and noted that communications and engagement should include specific market segments, including tertiary students and general public that currently do not use public transport.

3.3 The consideration and evaluation of climate change by the New Zealand Transport Agency in investment and policy decisions

The Committee received a report and presentation from council officers on how the New Zealand Transport Agency (the Agency) takes account of climate change in developing transport projects and in the Agency's investment decisions.

The report is about the government policy and legislative framework in relation to transport and climate change, as well as the agency's policies. These policies determine how NZTA contribute to climate change as a builder, operator and maintainer of state highways. In addition, the report outlines the Agency's role as a decision maker in connection to land transport investment.

The Committee discussed the central government's climate change policy, transport related legislation and the Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP). It was noted that while the RLTP's climate change approach was clear, there was a disconnect between national central government and local government policy, especially in terms of how the climate change effects of transport decisions were considered.

The Committee agreed that progress on how the Council considers climate change as an integral part of planning and decision making will be reported through the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee.

3.4 Northern Suburbs Bus Service Improvements

The Committee received a presentation from Council officers on proposed timetable changes to improve the customer experience of bus services in the Northern Suburbs.

The Northern Suburbs have the second highest population growth rate in Wellington City which increases the demand for public transport. The current bus services are at, or near, capacity during peak times and therefore there is little room to accommodate future patronage growth. Buses routinely arrive at Courtenay Place 20 minutes late, which makes these bus routes the most unreliable group of services in the Metlink network.

Council officers have proposed a retiming of the current timetables which will provide more realistic journey times and more trips where they are needed. The Committee noted that these timetable improvements are scheduled to be implemented in two phases the first in November and the second in February.

3.5 Report from WCC Transport and Urban Development Committee (Cr Andy Foster)

The Committee received a presentation on the activities of the WCC Transport and Urban Development Committee report from Councillor Andy Foster.

The Committee received an update on the street audit that WCC is carrying out to improve access to and from Wellington Station as well as bike lanes being developed in Island Bay and Victoria Street.

4. Communication

No external communication is required.

5. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

5.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

6. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

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