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Committee Passenger Transport
Author Dave Watson Divisional Manager Transport

Greater Wellington Transport Monthly Report - July 2003

1. Purpose

To provide the Committee with information on a range of transport topics not mentioned elsewhere in the order paper.

2. Financial Performance (Rhona Nicol)

For the eleven months ended 31 May 2003 the Division is showing an operating surplus of \$216,000 which represents a \$256,000 favourable variance on the budgeted deficit of \$40,000.

Major elements of the \$256,000 favourable variance are as follows:

- A \$601,000 favourable variance with the deferment of the English Electric rail refurbishment.
- A \$1,010,000 favourable variance with new kick-start services to be finalised following the completion of the Hutt Valley services review.
- A \$958,000 unfavourable variance with patronage revenue claimed to date below budget. \$583,000 of this variance is due to timing differences between the budget and the Transfund's claim process.
- A \$397,000 unfavourable variance due to inflation payments on bus and ferry contracts, and interim contracts for the Hutt Valley.

3. Hutt Valley QPA (Dave Watson)

The Committee Chairperson, Cr Chris Turver, Cr Terry McDavitt and I have visited both Mayor Terris and Mayor Guppy to discuss the concept of a Passenger Transport Quality Partnership Agreement for the Hutt Valley. The response from both has been supportive. As a consequence I have started to draft a Hutt Valley Passenger Service Quality Partnership Agreement based on the QPA for Wellington City.

The next steps are meetings with the bus operators in the Valley and then a formal request to all parties to join the Hutt Valley QPA. Part of this later process will be the development of a five year indicative programme of actions and activities to promote passenger transport in the Hutt Valley. Each Council will need to finally adopt the QPA at some point.

4. Urban Passenger Transport Forum (Dave Watson)

I have not encouraged any of the Transport Staff to attend this year's annual Bus and Council Conference. Previously I have insisted that we support this conference as it represented a major element of our business, I have personally attended several of them over the years. This year, like the last few years, there is little of interest to us being discussed at the conference. I have discussed this with our regional bus operators. I have suggested to them that we combine to sponsor our Urban Passenger Transport Forum here in Wellington. I intend to form a small group of ourselves and key urban bus/rail operators to pursue this concept further with the goal of organising some conference event, within the next 12 months, that will cover the areas of interest to those parties concerned.

5. RTO Group (Dave Watson)

The Regional Transport Officers Group (RTO) met in Christchurch on 19 June. Rhona Nicol and I attended the meeting as the main topic was the Transfund patronage funding proposal for buses and ferries. Several officers (staff and consultants) representing Transfund also attended part of the meeting.

The future of the current competitive pricing procedures was raised by Transfund. The Land Transport Management Bill when enacted could materially alter the procurement process. A possible view of how that new process will be implemented is that regional council's will write their own procurement procedures within a broad framework set by Transfund and guided by the Auditor General's best practice advice to local Government. If this occurs it will remove much of the present frustration with the restrictive nature of the CPP system.

6. National Land transport Programme (Dave Watson)

Councillors have already received copies of the relevant parts of the Transfund New Zealand National Land Transport Programme 2003/04 concerning both roading and passenger transport.

Attachment 1 shows those parts of the programme relevant to this Committee. The programme is as anticipated.

Table 3-1 shows the level of patronage funding going to the Auckland Region, some \$31.8m. This illustrates the issue Transfund has highlighted regarding the sustainability of the current patronage funding scheme.

The total funding expected to come from Transfund New Zealand in 2003/04 for passenger transport in the Wellington Region is \$24.5m.

7. Accessible Public Land Transport Inquiry (Dave Watson)

The project manager for the inquiry into Accessible Public Land Transport, to be undertaken by the Human Rights Commissioner, Mr Bruce Coleman visited me on Friday 20 June 2003 to talk about some of the issues surrounding the inquiry. Subsequent to this meeting the Human Rights Commissioner, Roslyn Norman, met with the Council Chairperson, Cr Turver and myself on 9 July 2003. Any matters discussed at the meeting will be covered orally at this committee meeting.

My understanding, at this moment, is that the terms of reference for the inquiry have yet to be finalised but that the inquiry may follow the following phases:

- 1 (a) Consultation with interest groups
(b) Research into international best practice
(c) Establishment of issues
(d) Publishing of a summary report based on the consultations and research
- 2 (a) Public hearings in Otago and Wellington
(b) Receive submissions from interested parties
(c) Publishing of a draft report on the hearings and the submissions
- 3 (a) Publishing of a final report with recommendations

8. Service Monitoring (Carolyn Lefebvre)

The table below shows the levels of part missed, missed or delayed bus trips for the months of May 2003.

In Service Failures Resulting in 11 Minute + Delays		
May-03		
Operator	Number of Services	% of total services
Runciman Motors	Nil	Nil
Community Coach Services	Nil	Nil
Mana/Newlands	10	0.04%
Cityline	21	1.10%
Stagecoach	37	0.09%

9. Infrastructure Update (Kevin Grace)

9.1 Petone Station

The first site meeting has now been held with the contractor Sherwin and Long. The Portacom is in place for Tranz Metro staff who will be ready to move in shortly, with demolition of the existing building starting on 23rd July. The initial invoice was generated in time to secure the Transfund subsidy and we look forward to this project proceeding over the next eight months.

9.2 Melling/Taita Carpark Extensions

This contract has now been successfully completed, providing 35 extra spaces at Melling plus new carpark lighting, and 15 new spaces at Taita in High Street.

9.3 Pomare Station

At the last Passenger Transport Committee meeting Cr Thomas asked if officers could look into the possibility of creating some Park'n Ride spaces at Pomare. We have now inspected the area and had discussions with Hutt City. Land is currently available for all day parking of around 10 cars right in front of the station subway on Eastern Hutt Road but is not used by commuters due to security and safety concerns. Taita Park'n Ride is just one kilometre down the road and has become a popular Park'n Ride site with Stokes Valley commuters. There is still capacity available at Taita as well as the new spaces just completed on High Street. Hutt City agree that commuters prefer to park at Taita and Waterloo which not only offer better security but also more regular peak time services.

10. Public Transport Database, Journey Planner, and Geographic Information System (Anthony Cross)

Following a two-stage selection process, we are in the process of entering into a contract with an English company to build an integrated timetable database which will enable us to significantly improve our production of timetables in leaflet form, at bus stops and on the web, to computerise the telephone enquiry centre, and to offer a full journey planning service by phone and on the web for the first time (some councillors are already familiar with the journey planning function provided by Auckland Regional Council's Rideline call centre; this project will offer all of that functionality with many additional features).

The project will also form Stage 1 of a possible six-stage strategy for implementing real-time information which will be presented to councillors in a future workshop.

An extract from the Request for Proposals document is attached for information (**attachment 2**).

11. Porirua Bus Service Review (Anthony Cross, Alex Campbell)

On 18 June 2003 Councillors Shields and Turver and I attended a meeting of Porirua City Council's Infrastructure Committee to make a presentation on the Porirua Bus Service Review. Submissions on Stage 1 of the consultation closed on 27 June (**attachment 3**). Market research focus groups have been held for participants from Whitby and Papakowhai, Eastern Porirua, Titahi Bay and Elsdon, and Tawa. As expected, much less dissatisfaction with the existing bus services has emerged than was the case in the Hutt Valley. The two issues which stand out for attention relate to the frequency and hours of operation, and lack of Sunday services, on the Whitby - Porirua and Porirua - Tawa - Johnsonville routes (both routes were introduced in the 1990s and have shown healthy patronage growth despite operating only hourly).

Summary of submissions received

Primary consultation for the Porirua bus service review commenced on the 3 June 2003. This consultation involved the distribution of brochures to around 19,000 households in Porirua and Tawa. In addition brochures were distributed on local buses, to locations such as libraries, shops and Porirua Railway Station. The brochures, which included Maori and Samoan translations, provided a reply paid form inviting residents to comment on local bus services. Letters were also sent to local community groups inviting their feedback.

By the 4th of July a total of 413 submissions had been received from residents and interested organisations. Of those responding 75% currently use the bus, 63% use the train and 8% use neither.

The main types of comments received are as follows:

%	Comment Type	
26%	Frequency	Requests for more frequent services
25%	Route Suggestions	Requests for improved route coverage, additional destinations or suggestions for changes to existing routes
23%	Hours of operation	Requests for later, earlier and/or weekend buses
9%	Bus stops and shelters	Requests for new bus stops, to relocate existing bus stops and for bus shelters
8%	Don't change a thing	Very satisfied and request that the existing service not be changed
7%	Bus Drivers	Comments on the standard of drivers including their helpfulness, driving standard and customer service
5%	Reliability	Comments on the reliability of services
5%	Bus-train connections	Issues to do with connections between buses and trains
5%	Fares and ticketing	Comments on fare levels, products and integration.
4%	Vehicle Quality	Comments on quality of buses including requests for newer buses, better Buses, more comfortable buses.
3%	Accessibility	Requests for improved accessibility for elderly, disabled and mums with prams
2%	Full buses	Comments on bus overloading

2%	Information, Promotion and Advertising of services	Requests for improved provision of information on services
2%	Direct Service to City	Requests for direct services to Wellington without the need to transfer.

12. Hutt Valley Bus Service Review (Anthony Cross)

Saturday 25 October (Labour Weekend) has been designated the launch date for the Hutt Valley service changes, although some interim changes will take place in July and August (**attachment 4**). The background work on information and promotion for the October launch is well underway, including market testing of three options for a “system identifier” which will be introduced in the Hutt Valley for future implementation throughout the Region, and which is the subject of a councillors’ workshop at the conclusion of the Committee meeting.

13. Haywards Connection (Anthony Cross)

The Haywards Connection bus service between Porirua and Upper Hutt will operate for the last time on Friday 8 August 2003. The Council’s press release on this subject is attached (**attachment 5**).

14. Acting Divisional Manager (Dave Watson)

I will be on leave for three weeks, starting on 18 August. I will be visiting my first grandchild for the very first time followed by a trip through the centre of Australia. In my absence Carolyn Lefebvre will be acting Divisional Manager, Greater Wellington Transport and hence have all my delegations.

15. Communications

There is nothing to communicate

16. Recommendation

That the report be received.

Report prepared by:

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Attachments:

- 1 – Transfund New Zealand National Land Transport Programme 2003/04
- 2 – Extract from the Request for Proposals for Intergrated Public Transport Database, Geographic Information System and Journey planner
- 3 – Press release Porirua and Tawa Bus Service Review
- 4 – Press release and copy of timetable leaflet for new route 121 Valley Heights
- 5 – Press release regarding Hayward Connection