Regional Public Transport Plan Development Subcommittee
OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Regional Public Transport Plan Development Subcommittee held in Waikato Regional Council Chambers on 27 April 2017 at 1:00pm

Present:

**Waikato Regional Council**
- Cr Russ Rimmington (Chair)
- Cr Hugh Vercoe (Deputy Chair)

**Hamilton City Council**
- Cr Dave Macpherson
- Cr Leo Tooman
- Cr Geoff Taylor (alt)

**Regional Transport Committee Members**
- Cr Toby Adams – Hauraki District Council

**NZ Transport Agency**
- Andrew McKillop

In Attendance:

**Waikato Regional Council**
- Cr Barry Quayle

**Waikato Regional Council Staff**
- Annika Lane
- Bill McMaster
- Andrew Wilson
- Anna Harris
- Tracey May
- Lisette Balsom
- Vincent Kuo
Apologies

Waipa District Council - Cr Grahame Webber

Confirmation of Agenda

(Agenda Item 2)

Cr Russ Rimmington moved/Cr Leo Tooman seconded.

RPTPDS17/01

THAT the agenda of the meeting of the Regional Public Transport Plan Development Subcommittee (RPTPDS) of 27 April 2017, as circulated, be confirmed as the business for the meeting.

The motion was put and carried (RPTPDS17/01)

Disclosures of Interest

(Agenda Item 3)

There were no disclosures of interest.

Regional Public Transport Plan Review 2018

File: 21 20 83A (Agenda Item 4) Doc #10251232

Presented by Manager Public Transport Operations (Andrew Wilson) and Policy Advisor (Lisette Balsom) this report informed the Regional Public Transport Plan Development Subcommittee on the review of the Waikato Regional Public Transport Plan 2018-2028.

During questions, answers and related discussion the Subcommittee the following points were noted:

- The Committee suggested that the District Health Board and the University of Waikato be extended an invite to attend the RPTPDS. With the District Health Board mirroring the public transport system in rural areas, their input would be valuable.

Andrew Wilson invited Waikato University Principal Researcher, Traffic Design Group (Bridget Burdett) and Waikato University Professor (Stuart Locke) to present to the Committee on the value of public transport to community wellbeing.

Following the presentation, the following points were noted:

- The Quality of Life survey for the Waikato region was undertaken and 1,160 responses were received. From this, 700 were from Hamilton. The committee queried, how it could be ensured that those undertaking the survey have provided true and accurate information.

- The Committee agreed, it was clear there was a link between transport and community well-being. It was suggested that, once research had been undertaken and a plan established in this area, a pilot area be considered for implementation.

- When considering a plan in this space, the Committee stressed that a community centric approach was needed to involve all areas including outer Waikato.

- Community transport technology options could be considered, such as ‘bus it app’.
Chair (Councillor Russ Rimmington) thanked Bridgett Burdette and Stuart Locke for their presentation.

Andrew Wilson invited New Zealand Transport Agency - Principal Transport Planner (Tamara Bozovic) to present to the Committee on the potentials for the transport system and the community.

Following the presentation, the following points were noted:

- Public Transport needed to be ‘attractive’ to the Community in order to engage people to use it, and also continue to use it. It needed to be accessible and a cheap alternative to a private motor vehicle.
- The Committee considered the ‘Orbiter Bus Service’ to be a Hamilton success story with patronage doubling from 2005-2010. However, a reduction in services meant less promotion from 2009 and patronage had stalled and dipped in the last 5 years.

Chair (Councillor Russ Rimmington) thanked Tamara Bozovic for her presentation.

The Committee engaged in a round table discussion on key issues and opportunities with particular reference to the goals and strategic priorities of the current Regional Public Transport Plan.

The following points were noted:

- In regard to Huntly and Ngaruawahia public transport services to Hamilton were good and very accessible in those areas.
- In Hamilton City currently the bus services were utilised mostly by school children.
- It was suggested that further innovative services such as the Orbiter needed to be established. This Orbiter successfully connected major schools and services. The orbiter was frequent enough in both directions that no timetable was required.
- The Committee noted the convenience of the Orbiter services direct from Nawton to the University of Waikato without stops at the transport centre.
- A public transport system that befitted the growing city of Hamilton was becoming vital with peak traffic causing major delays into and out of the city.
- Consideration needed to be given to how we could ensure that bus services were fully utilised during the day. It was suggested that more dedicated bus lanes be considered.
- Looking in to the need for dedicated cycleways could also be a consideration for this Committee in developing the plan, with consideration being given to how all modes of transport could work better together.
- Farebox recovery would also be part of the considerations to be addressed within 18 months.
- The Committee suggested direct travel between destinations, with no need to stop at the transport centre would make bus services more appealing.
- The Committee considered having other services and departments represented at the RPTPDS – such as District Health Board, University of Waikato and the Department of Education. This would be considered in further detail and options bought back to the Committee for consideration at the next meeting.

Cr Leo Tooman left the meeting at 3:06pm.

Manager Public Transport Operations (Andrew Wilson) provided the Committee with an update on key current activities and next steps to establish the plan.
During discussion the following points were noted:

- There was currently a steering group considering passenger rail between Hamilton and Auckland that will report back to partner organisations. Concern was raised about the cost of time and reports in this space, with some Members of the Committee believing a more proactive approach to getting the project started and completed was needed. A Member expressed concern that this has the potential to be a ‘north Waikato solution’, what was needed was a Hamilton central solution. The Committee suggested there should be two rail lines (one for passenger and one freight) however before any of this could be considered, there was a need to secure landing rights, in the right places, in downtown Auckland.

- While the Hamilton to Cambridge bus service is good, it was suggested that dedicated bus lanes be considered for the last kilometre into Hamilton as this was where congestion is occurring at peak times.

- The development of technology and smart phone apps for public transport services would be considered as part of a bigger development pathway.

The Committee was advised that the next RPTPDS meeting was scheduled for 12 June 2017. The consultation plan would be discussed at this meeting.

A McKillop moved/Cr Toby Adams seconded.

RPTPDS17/02

THAT. the Regional Public Transport Plan Development Committee:

1. Receives the report Regional Public Transport Plan Review 2018 (Doc # 10251232 dated 07 April 2017) for information

2. Endorses the proposed project timeframe and key milestones as outlined in this report.

The motion was put and carried (RPTPDS17/02)