

Minutes of the Public Transport Subcommittee Meeting held in Council Meeting Room One, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, 5 Quay Street, Whakatane on Wednesday, 23 February 2011 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Councillors: J Nees, P Thompson, L Thurston, M Whitaker

Ex Officio: Council Chairman J Cronin

Appointees: Mayor S Crosby (Tauranga City Council), Councillor G Searancke (Rotorua District Council)

In Attendance: Councillor R Curach (Tauranga City), E Hatch (Senior Planner), M Macleod (Group Manager Strategic Development), G Maloney (Transport Policy Manager), P Sisam (Senior Communications Advisor), S Cubbon & S Kameta (Committee Administration)

Apologies: Councillors I Noble, D Owens (Chairman), P Sherry (Deputy Chairman), P Thompson (for lateness).

1 Announcements from the Chair

Councillor Jane Nees advised members that the subcommittee Chairman, Councillor Owens would be unable to attend the meeting and had requested she assume the Chairmanship of this meeting.

The Mayor of Tauranga City introduced Councillor Rick Curach. Mayor Crosby explained that Councillor Curach would be Tauranga City's future representative on the subcommittee, a letter confirming same would be forthcoming.

The Chairperson advised there would be a change in the order of business to that listed in the agenda, the confidential reports to be considered after all others except Item 5.4 'Other Matters of Interest' in which matters surrounding Valley Road issues would be discussed.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Subcommittee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Accepts the nomination of Councillor Nees as Chair of this meeting.**
- 2 Accepts a change in the order of business from that listed in the agenda.**

**Cronin/Patterson
CARRIED**

2 Reports

2.1 Future Work Programme

Transport Policy Manager, Garry Maloney discussed the report giving members some knowledge of the scale of the tasks to be addressed each calendar year of the 2010/13 triennium. The subcommittee were scheduled to meet twice a year but as there was now the responsibility for preparation of the Regional Public Transport Plan, it was expected that additional workshops/meetings would be held. Members were advised that requests for new bus services could be addressed when looking at network reviews and in the Annual Plan.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Subcommittee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Future Work Programme.

Thurston/Whitaker
CARRIED

2.2 2010/11 Mid-Year Achievement Report for Public Transport Programme

The New Zealand Transport Agency required regional councils administering public transport services to report on performance bi-annually and Mr Maloney advised Council's achievement was looking good at this stage. Members went through the report section by section noting most services had shown a steady increase in patronage.

Although this was a retrospective report, clarification was sought as to the effect recent petrol price rises may have on costs. The Committee were informed that there was a wide range of fare recovery and petrol prices need not necessarily have an impact on fares or operators.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Subcommittee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, 2010/11 Mid-Year Achievement Report for Public Transport Programme.

Nees/Thurston
CARRIED

2.3 Changes to Tauranga Urban and Ohope to Whakatane Bus Fares

The Transport Policy Manager's report included a previous report that had been considered at the December 2010 meeting of Regional Council wherein it was resolved that this sub-committee consider making changes to the bus fares applying to the Tauranga urban and Ohope to Whakatane bus services. Members agreed with Mr Maloney that this was a matter that would be addressed through the development of the Regional Public Transport Plan.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Subcommittee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Changes to Tauranga Urban and Ohope to Whakatane Bus Fares.**
- 2 Notes that changes to Tauranga and Ohope bus fares will be addressed through the development of the Regional Public Transport Plan.**
- 3 Confirms that the significance of the decision has been assessed as LOW, and under Section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) confirms that in light of the level of significance of the decision it does not require: (a) Further identification and assessment of different options under section 77 LGA; (b) Further investigation or consideration of community views under section 78 LGA; (c) Any further written record of the manner in which section 77 and section 78 matters have been addressed.**

**Thurston/Whitaker
CARRIED**

2.4 Update on SuperGold Card Travel Scheme

The report updated members on matters relating to the SuperGold Card free bus travel scheme. Garry Maloney provided information on how the SuperGold Card travel scheme was working for the bus services that were eligible within the region, and set out changes the Ministry of Transport had approved to its parameters. Council had claimed a large part of the annual funding allocation for the scheme within the first six months of the current financial year, and members noted that staff intended to submit an application to New Zealand Transport Agency for an increase in the annual allocation.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Subcommittee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Update on SuperGold Card Travel Scheme.**

**Nees/Thurston
CARRIED**

Attendance

Councillor Thompson joined the meeting at 9.50 a.m.

2.5 Tauranga School Buses

Senior Transport Planner, Emlyn Hatch introduced the report dealing with the progress towards the transition of student transport from the Ministry of Education-funded network. Mr Hatch provided background information as to the reasons for the changes, to be in place before the start of the 2015 school year.

Members considered that the change would create significant problems for Tauranga City bringing further congestion to the roads. They observed that the layout of schools in the Tauranga area created its own difficulties, as would the inevitable age-group integration.

The report from Mr Hatch contained a timeline for the project, and it was noted that a draft scoping report would go to the Project Steering Group in March 2011 which would estimate the number of children involved and the cost of transporting them. Members saw this as a key document that should be work-shopped and asked that members of the Principals' Association be included in discussions.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Subcommittee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Tauranga School Buses.**
- 2 Requests a workshop to consider the draft scoping report when received.**

**Whitaker/Cronin
CARRIED**

3 Resolution to exclude the public

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

3.1 Re-tender of the Murupara to Rotorua Bus Service

Reason

That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Grounds

That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

3.2 Rotorua Urban Bus Service

Reason

That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would disclose a trade secret.

Grounds

That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

**Patterson/Thurston
CARRIED**

The meeting continued in open session at 10.35 a.m.

4 Other Matters of Interest

Mayor Crosby informed members of concerns that had been communicated to him regarding the number of buses traversing Valley Road, a residential street in Mount Maunganui. At issue were volume (as many as 700 buses each week), speed, and vibration. A public meeting had been held the previous week which Councillors Curach and Owens had attended. Staff acknowledged they were aware of the concerns; there were a number of people who complained about the service and many who supported it and did not want the route changed. Work was continuing in terms of modelling and members could expect a report to come back to the Committee.

Responding to questions regarding driver/public safety and complaints regarding bus drivers, Mr Maloney advised this was an employment issue and such complaints should be directed to the police.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Subcommittee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Other Matters of Interest.**

**Nees/Thurston
CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 10.50 a.m.