

Minutes of the Public Transport Committee Meeting held in Mauao Rooms, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Building, 87 First Avenue, Tauranga on Friday, 29 March 2019 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: L Thurston

Deputy Chairman: N Bruning

Councillors: P Thompson, J Nees, S Crosby, K Winters, A von Dadelszen

Ex Officio: Chairman D Leeder

Appointees: Cr M Gould (Rotorua Lakes Council)

In Attendance: BOPRC: Cr D Love, Cr J Cronin, Namouta Poutasi – General Manager Strategy & Sciences, Mat Taylor – General Manager Corporate, Tone Nerdrum-Smith – Committee Advisor

Tauranga City Council: Cr Rick Curach, Christine Jones – General Manager Strategy & Growth and Clare Cassidy – Planning Engineer Transport

Others: Carole Gordon (Public Forum), Claire Neville, Scott Thorne and Zane Fulljames (NZ Bus)

Apologies: Cr D Thwaites (Western Bay of Plenty District Council), Cr T Molloy (Tauranga City Council),

1 Chairperson's Introduction

Key Points

- Welcomed those present and provided an outline of the agenda for the meeting
- Noted the changes in the order of speakers and presenters.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 **Welcomes Tauranga City Council Councillors and staff to sit at the Committee table.**

**Thurston/Thompson
CARRIED**

2 **Apologies**

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 **Accepts the apologies from Cr D Thwaites (Western Bay of Plenty District Council) and Cr T Molloy (Tauranga City Council) tendered at the meeting.**

**Thurston/Nees
CARRIED**

3 **Public Forum**

Nil

4 **Acceptance of Late Items**

Nil

5 **General Business**

Nil

6 **Confidential Business to be Transferred into the Open**

Nil

7 **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

Nil

8 **Reports**

8.1 **Public Transport Blueprint - Progress Update**

PowerPoint Presentation – Reference A3173879

NZ Bus: Claire Neville - General Manager Operations, Scott Thorne - Chief Commercial Officer and Zane Fulljames, CEO attended the meeting for this item

Key Points of Presentation

- Senior Management
- NZ Bus in Tauranga
- Operational Performance
- Response to Staff Shortages
- Current Situation
- Other Outcomes
- Plans for the Future
- In Summary.

Presenters in Response to Questions

- Acknowledged the issues that had faced Tauranga, in particular in February 2019 at the commencement of the school year
- School bus services: had stabilised the workforce; was fully resourced; confident of ability to deliver all contracted services
- New routes: was demonstrating keenness and ability to address issues and was confident of capacity to take on new routes as well as school buses
- Operating a public transport service in Tauranga was different from Wellington and the two markets should not be directly compared
- Health & safety considerations underpinned all their services and if the safety of customers or employees was considered at risk, immediate action would be taken
- The Tauranga e-buses were scheduled for deployment in August 2019
- Had operated e-buses for a number of years and was confident that they met all safety and reliability criteria

10.00 am – The meeting **adjourned** for the National Remembrance Service undertaken in recognition of the attacks at the mosque in Christchurch on Friday 15 March 2019.

Chairman Leeder provided a eulogy, which was followed by a two-minute silence.

10.07 am - The meeting **reconvened**.

Presenters in Response to Questions - Continued

- The agreement with Council did not specify that living wage would be adhered to at all times, rather it was part of the initial recruitment process
- All the drivers seconded from Auckland had now returned
- Hoped that the significant effort made to address the issues would assist in rebuilding the trust in NZ Bus
- The possibility of operating the school bus service as a separate fleet could be further explored.

Key Points – Members

- Concerned that NZ Bus would not be able to meet contractual obligations if the school bus service was re-allocated from the other (temporary) providers
- There had been a significant loss of confidence by the community and it would take considerable effort to rebuild the trust.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Public Transport Blueprint - Progress update.**

**Thurston/von Dadelszen
CARRIED**

10.30am – The meeting **adjourned**.

10.45am – The meeting **reconvened**.

8.2 **Engaging Older People in Transportation Planning**

PowerPoint Presentation – Reference A3173910

Carole Gordon presented this item.

Key Points of Presentation

- The View Shaft
- Methodology
- Cultural Identity
- Project Strategic Relevance – not business as usual
- Participant Age Range 60% Over 75 Years 38% Over 80 Years
- Elder Insights:
 - Main travel destinations
 - Modes of transport used
 - Policy and Planning
- What did elders say
- Opportunity.

Presenter in Response to Questions

- There was a different ‘language’ in the transport arena as the world population aged
- The impact of an aging population on the existing transport systems should be considered an opportunity, rather than a challenge
- In Tauranga, Maori and Pacifica people were traditionally not bus users, which could have a number of causes, e.g. lack of bus stops near marae
- Transfers were considered a significant barrier to elderly bus users.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Engaging Older People in Transportation Planning.**

**Von Dadelszen/Thompson
CARRIED**

8.3 **Network Planning, Service Delivery and Infrastructure**

PowerPoint Presentation – Reference A3169047

Namouta Poutasi – General Manager Strategy & Sciences and Garry Maloney – Transport Policy Manager presented this item.

Key Points of Presentation

- Outline
- Context

- Top 10 Cross Sector Vehicle Trip Demands During the AM Peak Period
- What happened
- Phases - Timeframe
- Phase 1 – Fix School Buses
- Phase 2 – Route 36 & 70.

Presenters in Response to Questions

- Phase 1 had generated positive feedback from both parents and schools
- Currently there were three service providers for the school bus service
- If NZ Bus could adequately demonstrate their ability to operate the dedicated school buses, the service could be transferred back
- The Public Transport Blueprint encouraged secondary students to use public buses for school travel
- Maintaining dedicated school buses through separate contracts could be an option
- Phase 3 review would consider the entire network and the impact of the changes.

11.30 am – Cr Winters **withdrew** from the meeting.

Key Points – Members

- The introduction of the Public Transport Blueprint had reduced the number of dedicated school buses, however they had been reinstated following the issues of February 2019
- Sought certainty around retaining the dedicated school bus service.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Network Planning, Service Delivery and Infrastructure.**

**Thurston/von Dadelszen
CARRIED**

8.4 Tauranga City Council - Public Transport Infrastructure Update

PowerPoint Presentation – Reference A3175696

Christine Jones – General Manager Strategy & Growth and Clare Cassidy – Planning Engineer Transport, Tauranga City Council presented this item.

Key Points of Presentation

- TCC – Public Transport infrastructure update
- Delivering PT Infrastructure
- Improvements to high use stops and pedestrian access
- Infrastructure in the Blueprint
- Cameron Road
- Tauriko Interchange
- Polytech Interchange
- Hairini Interchange

- Greerton Interchange
- Bayfair Interchange
- Improving high use stops
- Additional requirements identified through the DBC process
- Additional Work
 - Mount Drury
 - Brookfield
 - Improving access
 - New stops and shelters
 - Arataki
 - 15th Avenue
 - Maunganui Road
- Additional projects
- Additional planning underway
- Summary of progress
- Moving forward.

Presenters in Response to Questions

- When land purchase was required for major infrastructure, but the landowners were not comfortable to sell, a Public Works Act process could be initiated. However, this was a protracted process and there was no guaranteed outcome
- All the listed projects had been allocated funding in TCC's 2018-28 Long Term Plan
- No decision had been made with regards to a dedicated bus lane on Cameron Road between the CBD and the Hospital
- Had contacted all business owners along Cameron Road who would be affected by changes in road design. These initial conversations had provided an opportunity to assess the need for further engagement
- The proposed Greerton Interchange design would result in a loss of three mature cherry trees and some parking spaces
- Two reviews were currently underway on the Greerton roading changes:
 - Assessment of the engagement and communication with the community
 - Did the final design meet expected and intended outcomes
- The original Bayfair Interchange location could not proceed due to issues around privately owned land, which meant a temporary solution in Links Avenue had to be established. Unless the land issue could be resolved, the Bayfair Interchange project would be significantly delayed
- Differing KPIs and thresholds in projects that traversed various authorities made independent decision making challenging
- TCC's Infrastructure Development Code was undergoing review and the updated version would include pre-planning for multi-modal transport within subdivisions
- Benchmarks for past developments should not automatically set the standard for the future.

Key Points – Members

- A number of the changes in the Public Transport Blueprint were based on the provision of interchanges, e.g. Brookfield Interchange, which, if significantly delayed, would become a major issue.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Tauranga City Council - Public Transport Infrastructure Update.**

**Thurston/von Dadelszen
CARRIED**

8.5 Total Mobility Solution

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Total Mobility Solution.**

**Thurston/von Dadelszen
CARRIED**

8.6 Other Matters of Interest

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

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

**Thurston/von Dadelszen
CARRIED**

12.55 pm – The meeting **adjourned**.

1.25 pm – The meeting **reconvened**

9 Previous Minutes

9.1 Public Transport Committee Minutes - 08 February 2019

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Confirms the Public Transport Committee Minutes - 08 February 2019**

**Gould/Thompson
CARRIED**

9.2 Tauranga Bus Network Review (Phase 3) - Scope of Works

PowerPoint presentation – Reference A3169047

Namouta Poutasi – General Manager Strategy & Sciences and Garry Maloney – Transport Policy Manager presented this item.

Key Points

- **Tauranga Review Phase 3 Scope**
- Phase 3 – Network review
- Other change requests
- Phase 3 – Network review principles
- Strategic Review vs Network Review
- Preferred Network Review – Option 2.

1.40pm - Cr Cronin **withdrew** from the meeting.

In Response to Questions

- Review of the SuperGold card validity hours was not expected to be a significant piece of work, however NZTA's current position was that the hours could not be changed as it impacted on the allocation of bulk funding
- Public Transport gross patronage had increased for urban services; reduced for school buses and increased overall
- Option 2 was consistent with the planned March 2019 review
- The changed Blueprint had only operated for four months and was still in the settling-in phase.

1.53 pm – Chairman Leeder **withdrew** from the meeting.

Key Points – Members

- A significant part of the Tauranga congestion issue was due to commuter traffic from the wider Bay of Plenty
- The review should consider the particular needs of an aging population, rather than solely focus on commuter traffic.

Staff Follow-up

- Include the changed assumptions in the review, e.g. around TCC infrastructure, dedicated school buses etc.

Resolved

That the Public Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Tauranga Bus Network Review (Phase 3) - Scope of Works.**
- 2 Approves Phase 3 - Option 2 network review as described in Sections 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 of the agenda report.**
- 3 Notes the Phase 3 network review staging timeline in section 6 of the agenda report; and proposed community engagement in section 4 of the agenda report.**

4 The Network Review will include:

- Identifying the differences in assumptions going forward from the assumptions on which the Blueprint was based on (including separate versus integrated school services, environment and customer behaviour)
- Assessing whether these differences may have a significant impact on the philosophy and approach underlying the Blueprint
- If significant impact, then strategically review that element.

**Thurston/von Dadelszen
CARRIED**

9.3 Public Excluded Section**Resolved****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:

General Subject of Matter to be Considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to this matter	Grounds under Section 48(1) LGOIMA 1987 for passing this resolution
Tauranga Bus Contracts - Further Response to Feedback for Services to Matua	To carry out commercial and industrial negotiations	Good reason for withholding exists under Section 48(1)(a)
Public Excluded Public Transport Committee Minutes - 08 February 2019	Refer to the relevant section of the open minutes	Good reason for withholding exists under Section 48(1)(a)

THAT Cr Rick Curach, Christine Jones – General Manager Strategy & Growth and Clare Cassidy – Planning Engineer Transport (Tauranga City Council) be permitted to stay after the public has been excluded due to their knowledge of the reports under discussion.

**Thurston/Thompson
CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 2.19 pm

DATE

Lyall Thurston
Chairperson – Public Transport Committee