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## **Report 01.596**

17 August 2001

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Report to the Passenger Transport Committee  
By Dr D J Watson, Division Manager Transport

## **RLTS: Public Transport Progress Report**

### **1. Purpose**

To update the Committee on progress towards implementing the public transport projects in the adopted Regional Land Transport Strategy.

### **2. Western Corridor (Otaki to Wellington)**

#### ***Public Transport Projects to 2004***

- *Upgrade the Paraparaumu railway station building*
- *Build a new railway station at Raumati*
- *Extend the urban electric rail service to Waikanae*
- *Increase weekday urban rail service frequency from the Kapiti Coast to Wellington to 15 minutes in peak period and 30 minutes in off peak*
- *Provide additional commuter car and cycle parks at major railway stations*
- *Increase rail feeder services to match the increase in urban rail frequency*

#### ***Progress Update***

New increased urban rail services started on 5 August 2001 on the Paraparaumu line. New and additional bus services were started on 6 August 2001 in Paraparaumu and Raumati to provide more direct services to and from the Paraparaumu station/Coastlands. Ten new bus shelters were erected to coincide with these changes. The Waikanae bus service was changed marginally to ensure ongoing connections to rail services. A new Otaki to Paraparaumu station commuter bus service was tendered for a start in September 2001. All rail connecting bus services in Porirua were retimed to retain those connections. A Paekakariki shoppers bus service,

connecting to Coastlands, started on 7 August. A Kapiti Coast to Kenepuru and Wellington hospitals bus service has also started.

Several commuter carparks at stations have or are to be improved. Sealing and extension of the Paraparaumu station commuter carpark has been completed. Paremata carpark has been extended and new lighting poles erected. Two security cameras have been installed and these are to be monitored by Waterford Securities Limited. Currently the Waterloo and Porirua stations security cameras are monitored by Waterford.

Resource consent approval to extend Redwood carpark is expected soon. Following submissions from Tawa Community Board to the Regional Council Annual Plans, plans have been prepared to add 100 new carparking spaces at Tawa station. Plans to seal space at Plimmerton for 40 carparking spaces have been prepared. Work will start once some issues related to Mainline Steam, who are located close to the site, are resolved.

### **3. Eastern Corridor (Masterton to Wellington)**

#### ***Public Transport Projects to 2004***

- *Investigate the construction of a bus or high occupancy vehicle lane which does not compromise the use of cycles on the route from Petone to Ngauranga on State Highway 2*
- *Allow additional direct commercial bus services from Wainuiomata, Stokes Valley, Western Hills and northern Upper Hutt to Wellington CBD*
- *Allow additional direct commercial ferry services across Wellington harbour*
- *Increase peak hour rail services to a 20 minute frequency from Upper Hutt*
- *Increase rail feeder bus services to match the increase in urban rail frequency*
- *Provide additional commuter carparks at main railway stations*
- *Refurbish Upper Hutt railway station and Petone railway station*
- *Continuous improvement in the quality and accessibility of passenger rail services on the Upper Hutt – Masterton route including improving commuter train frequency*

#### ***Progress Update***

New increased rail services started on 5 August 2001 on the Hutt line. Hutt Valley bus services were retimed where necessary to link with the new rail timetable. Work is ongoing to provide a third peak commuter train from Masterton to Wellington. Capacity issues on these Masterton trains may mean that short trips south of Upper Hutt are discouraged by introducing a minimum fare on the service.

Commuter carparking has been increased at Upper Hutt, Trentham and Wallaceville stations. A 20 space carpark has been provided at Solway station. A further 45 spaces are now planned for Waterloo station. This would be the last of the so called “easy options” for carparking at the station. Any further increases might have to involve construction of a carparking building and the associated cost.

#### **4. Porirua to Hutt Valley Corridor**

##### *Public Transport Projects to 2004*

- *New bus service Porirua to Lower Hutt*

##### *Progress Update*

A Porirua to Upper Hutt commuter bus service started on 6 August on a trial for two years. A Porirua, Johnsonville to the lower Hutt Valley is being instigated. It is unlikely to be introduced before 2002.

#### **5. Wellington and Wellington CBD Corridors**

##### *Public Transport Projects to 2004*

- *Improve bus priority through CBD traffic*
- *Establish bus priority for Newtown buses serving the southern and eastern suburbs*
- *Provide a bus service to the airport from the CBD*
- *Construct a bus service to the airport from the CBD*
- *Construct bus and high occupancy vehicle priority measures through Karori down to the Karori tunnel*
- *Enhance the bus/rail interchange at Wellington station*
- *Improve pedestrian linkages from Wellington station to the CBD*

##### *Progress Update*

Work on the Lambton bus/rail interchange came to a halt at the end of July when the Regional Council refused to accept Transfund's contribution of \$2.778m as it was conditional on Transfund clawing back \$2.738m from future patronage funding to the Council. The City and Regional Councils jointly approached Transfund to have the condition reviewed. A meeting of the Transfund Board was held on 16 August 2001 and it agreed to reduce the patronage funding claw back condition to \$1.369m.

The Regional Council's Passenger Transport Committee has become concerned about the slow introduction of bus priority schemes in Wellington city. It is trying to work cooperatively with the City to work through a process that will see these much needed projects proceed earlier than the City currently has them programmed.

#### **6. Tranz Metro Wellington Sale**

There is no further progress to report on resolving the sale of Tranz Metro Wellington. In Auckland they are expecting an announcement by Government on the purchase of the Auckland Rail Corridors before 31 August. The Wellington situation may be tied into that announcement. Negotiations over the current yearly contract are continuing.

**7. Communication**

There are no new matters to be publicised.

**8. Recommendation**

*That the report be received.*

Report prepared by:

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