



**Report 03.269**

24 April 2003

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Passenger Transport Committee held in the Wellington Regional Council Chamber, The Regional Council Centre, 142 Wakefield Street, Wellington on Thursday, 24 April 2003 at 9.30am**

**Present**

Councillors Turver (Chairperson), Aitken, Barr, Evans, Kirton, McDavitt, Shields, Thomas and Councillor Foster (WCC)

**Officers Present**

Anthony Cross, Carolyn Lefebvre, Kathy Newton, Rhona Nicol, Amy Norrish, Karen Richardson and Dr Watson

**Public Business**

**Procedural Items**

PT 94      **Apologies**

*Resolved*

*(Cr Turver/Cr McDavitt)*

*That the apologies from Councillors Buchanan, Kirton and Yardley be confirmed.*

PT 95      **Public Participation**

**Mr Tony Randle – Bus and Rail Commuter, Johnsonville**

Tony Randle discussed the possibility of Council replacing trains with buses. He expressed his concern with the Council's lack of strategy for buses as a main commuter system to the north of Wellington City, especially for the Johnsonville area. He also urged Greater Wellington to look at a rapid transit strategy that is focussed on transport corridors, rather than the mode of transport.

Tony Randle argued that if a good road corridor was established, buses may well become more viable than trains, providing faster travel times for commuters. While there are advantages to rail transport and it can be better for high volume, long-haul trips, Johnsonville is a short-haul trip that may lend itself to buses.

**Mr Brent Efford – Chair of Transport 2000+**

Brent Efford expressed his support for the continued use and upgrade of trolley buses in Wellington's central business district. He noted that trolley buses are a local sufficiency enterprise as the energy, labour and the parts required to run them are all supplied locally. Trolley buses are also a better alternative to diesel buses, as they do not produce noise and air pollution.

Brent Efford also stated that it was high time for Greater Wellington to start a comprehensive rail development strategy. He believes that a light rail system to Courtenay Place would be completely practical and may even attract too much patronage.

Councillor Kirton arrived at 9:55am

PT 96      **Confirmation of Minutes**

Committee members requested that the numbering of the minutes be amended from *PT 87 Hutt Valley Bus Service Review* to read *PT 88 Hutt Valley Bus Review*.

*Resolved*

*(Cr Turver/Cr Aitken)*

*That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2003, Report 03.194, be confirmed.*

PT 97      **New Staff in Transport Division**

Dr Watson introduced the new staff members in the Transport Division: Rhona Nicol, Kelly Maher, Karen O'Reilly, Lesley McConnell and Gunther Wild.

## Matters for Decision

### PT 98 Patronage Income and Operator Contract Payments

Dr Watson added that the Tranz Metro Wellington's patronage figures for March were up slightly (0.33% or 3,000 commuters) from February. He noted, however, that this figure did not include Easter, whereas the figures for the same time last year did.

Over the last three months patronage on Tranz Metro trains has decreased by 74,000. It was initially predicted that there would be a 2% growth over this period. Dr Watson advised that it is, therefore, necessary to consider the Council's contract with passenger transport operators.

There was general agreement with the need to put a clause in the contract to provide a disincentive for "poor performance". However, some committee members expressed concern over how "poor performance" could be quantified and qualified. It was discussed that this could be specified by the criteria of the contract.

#### Report 03.75

File: T/9/2/1

*Resolved*

*(Cr Aitken/Cr Turver)*

- (1) *That the report be received and the contents noted.*
- (2) *That, in principle, all future operator contracts with passenger transport operators include a clause to allow the Council to reduce any contract payments to the operator, being an amount equal to the loss in the Council's patronage income resulting from, in the sole view of the Council, an operator's poor performance. The criteria for poor performance would need to be agreed by the parties to any such contracts.*
- (3) *That the Committee be provided with a legal opinion on key issues associated with this proposed policy.*
- (4) *That the matters discussed be reported back to the next Passenger Transport Committee meeting.*

*Resolved*

*(Cr Aitken/Cr Shields)*

- (5) *That, with respect to the current Tranz Rail Limited contract, the Council will pay the operator on receipt of monthly patronage data related to the monthly contract payment.*

Councillor Kirton voted against resolution (5).

PT 99      **Trolley Bus Services Beyond 2004**

Dr Watson clarified that Council is able to start negotiations with Stagecoach for a trolley bus service, without going through an open tender process, because the Competitive Pricing Process outlined by Transfund provides for negotiation with one operator where the company is the sole supplier.

**Report 03.210**

File: T/11/1/1

*Resolved*

*(Cr McDavitt/Cr Thomas)*

- (1) *That the committee notes*
- (a) *that the rebuilt trolley bus production costs are expected to be similar to that of a new diesel bus.*
  - (b) *that the future annual cost of the overhead wiring system has yet to be determined.*
- (2) *That the committee agrees that discussions with Stagecoach Wellington on the likely costs of a further trolley bus contract, be commenced.*

**Matters for Information**

PT 100      **Tranz Metro Issues**

**Report 03.209**

File: T/11/2/1

*Resolved*

*(Cr Barr/Cr McDavitt)*

*That the report be received and the information noted.*

Councillor Thomas voted against the resolution.

Councillor Aitken left the meeting at 11:30am.

PT 101      **Divisional Report – April 2003**

**Workshop on 19 May 2003**

Dr Watson advised that the workshop on 19 May will cover the consultation paper produced by Transfund and the fare structure review.

**Carpark at Plimmerton Railway Station**

Councillor Shields pointed out that the carpark at Plimmerton railway station needed to be discussed at an upcoming meeting. She had received several comments from the public about the lack of parking facilities at the station.

### **Updates on Access to Total Mobility for clients at Hutt Valley DHB**

Carolyn Lefebvre agreed to keep Councillor Thomas updated on the progress with access to Total Mobility for Hutt Valley District Health Board clients with psychiatric disabilities.

**Report 03.207**

File: E/6/11/4

*Resolved*

*(Cr Turver/Cr Thomas)*

*That the report be received.*

### **Other Matters**

PT 102      **Questions**

#### **Adequate Stadium Tickets Required on Trains**

Councillor Shields requested that adequate numbers of tickets for matches at the stadium be supplied on trains. Currently the tickets run out after the first couple of stations and those who caught the train for convenience and were hoping not to walk far then have to go to the ticket office to purchase their tickets.

#### **LTSA SPAD Report**

Councillor Thomas requested that committee members receive a copy of the latest SPAD report from LTSA. Dr Watson informed the meeting it is unlikely that he will be able to obtain a copy due to confidentiality issues between LTSA and the operator.

PT 103      **General**

There were no matters of general business.

The meeting closed at 12:14pm.

Cr C TURVER  
Chairperson

Date: