

# Submission on the Wairarapa Corridor: Masterton to Upper Hutt Plan

## From the Passenger Transport Committee of Greater Wellington Regional Council

The Passenger Transport Committee of the Greater Wellington Regional Council has the responsibility for implementation of the passenger transport policies and programmes identified in the operative Regional Land Transport Strategy. The draft Wairarapa Corridor Plan identifies two projects prior to 2008 and for beyond 2008 that involves passenger transport. These are discussed below under the headings of rail and bus.

### Rail

#### Comment

Prior to 2008 the current carriages on the Wairarapa passenger rail services need replacement with refurbished BR cars or other suitable rolling stock. The current carriages are wooden framed and not suited to a refurbishment programme. It will also be appropriate to add carriages to the Wairarapa fleet at the same time to provide for additional capacity.

As part of this programme of carriage renewal it is rational to upgrade all station platforms to provide improved access between the platform and the carriages preferably without the need for a ramp or steps.

After 2008 full station upgrades and new stations at Timberlea and Cruickshank Road would be appropriate. The new stations would depend on population growth and associated growth in demand.

### Submission

It is recommended that the Wairarapa Corridor Plan references to passenger rail be reworded as follows:

#### “Projects to 2008

- Continuous improvement in the quality and accessibility of passenger rail services on the Upper Hutt–Masterton route to meet the needs of commuters, existing and those engaging in recreation, including the refurbishment and/or replacement of exiting carriages, the purchase of sufficient refurbished or new carriages to provide at least one extra peak hour service, the upgrade of all station platforms to improve passenger access to carriages.”

## Bus

### Comment

Bus services between Masterton and Featherston provide the corridor with both peak and interpeak passenger transport services. These bus services are not rail connection services. The Regional Council has embarked on a series of bus service reviews that concentrate on ensuring buses provide appropriate access to all local facilities as well as providing connections to other passenger transport services. These reviews contribute to the Council achieving its overall regional sustainability goals and the “Take 10” targets set out in the Long Term Council Community Plan 2003–2013.

### Submission

It is recommended that the Wairarapa Corridor Plan references to bus services be amended as follows:

#### “Projects to 2008

- Undertake a comprehensive bus service review of the Masterton Town, Masterton to Featherston and Martinborough to Featherston bus services to ensure they are fully contributing to the overall regional sustainability goals.”

Draft