



**Report 03.656**

8 October 2003

File: E/6/19/2

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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, 9 October 2003 at 9.30am**

**Present**

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

**Also Present**

Councillor Long

**Officers Present**

Messrs Cross, Darroch, Grace, Harris, Carolyn Lefebvre, Rhona Nicol and Karen Richardson, Schollum and Dr Watson

**Public Business**

**Procedural Items**

PT 135      **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**PT 136      Petition**

Councillor Turver said that with leave of members the Committee will first hear Mr E J Keay who wished to present a petition opposing the proposed new bus fares.

Mr Keay then presented his petition of 18 pages, a copy of which had been included in the Order Paper and which now also included three extra pages of 55 signatures presented today for the first time. Mr Keay said school children, pensioners and beneficiaries will be especially hard hit by the proposed increased bus fares.

Councillor Turver said officers will now consider the petition and other submissions on the bus fare proposals and will report back to the Passenger Transport Committee when it next meets in November.

Councillor Turver then invited Mr Keay to present further comments under public participation.

**PT 137      Public Participation****Mr E J Keay, 58 The Parade, Island Bay**

Mr Keay said the bus fares review leaflet which had been the basis for the public consultation document for Wellington on the proposed new fare system seemed to cut across the resolutions of the Passenger Transport Committee meeting of 12 June which seemed to read that the bus fare increase had already taken place.

Dr Watson said the consultation process included a request for public comment on the bus fare increases. As indicated earlier, following consideration of the Petition and other submissions from the public a formal bus fare recommendation will be presented to the next meeting of the Passenger Transport Committee in November for approval. Bus fares will not change until after the November meeting.

A copy of Mr Keay's comments were circulated.

**Mr Tony Randell**

Mr Randell said he did not agree with the costings in Report 03.563 concerning bus alternatives for urban rail, for consideration at today's meeting.

Mr Randell said bus rapid transport was better value for ratepayers than rail and more economic. For example the cost of refurbishment of English Electric carriages on the Johnsonville line was far more costly than a replacement bus rapid transport service. Today's report was incomplete and did not address stand alone issues such as replacement bus services on the Johnsonville line and other parts of the region such as the Melling Line.

Councillor Turver said members will discuss Report 03.563 later in the meeting following a presentation by consultants.

**PT 138 Confirmation of Minutes**

*Resolved* (Cr Turver/Cr McDavitt)

*That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 August 2003, Report 03.532, be confirmed.*

**Matters Arising**

**Communications**

Councillor Aitken noted that on page 5 of the Minutes under the heading Communications (2) the word Divisions should be replaced with Corporate so that the paragraph reads as follows:

Had the Divisional Report been discussed with the Corporate Communications Advisor(s)?

**Matter for Decision**

**PT 139 Representation on the Wellington City QPA Group**

**Report 03.564** File: T/10/1/1

*Resolved* (Cr Kirton/Cr Thomas)

*That the Regional Council political representatives on the Wellington City QPA group be:*

- *The Passenger Transport Committee Chairperson, Councillor Turver*
- *A Regional Councillor for the Wellington City Constituency, Councillor McDavitt.*

**Matters for Information**

**PT 140 Costing of an all Bus Alternative to Urban Rail**

**Report 03.563** File: T/10/1/1

Messrs Bolland and Gammie, Booz Allen and Hamilton gave a presentation and answered questions from members.

Responding to questions Dr Watson said that the Booz Allen and Hamilton report had been requested following a resolution by the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee in December last year to enable Council to have the update costings on how the current rail based Passenger Transport Services might be replaced partially or wholly with bus services and/or other alternatives.

*Resolved* (Cr Buchanan/Cr Laidlaw)

*That the report be received.*

PT 141 **Human Rights Commission – Inquiry into Accessible Public Land Transport**

**Report 03.565**

File: T/09/01/004

It was noted that while Council had made good progress towards fully accessible public transport within its financial abilities much still remained to be done. Dr Watson said the draft submission to the Human Rights Commission will take on board the comments made during the meeting and will also include a background on Council's current initiatives.

*Resolved* (Cr Buchanan/Cr Yardley)

*That the report be received.*

*Resolved* (Cr Buchanan/Cr Laidlaw)

*That officers report back with a draft submission in due course.*

PT 142 **Launch of Hutt Valley Bus Improvements**

**Report 03.581**

File: T/10/1/37

Karen Richardson, Marketing and Communications Advisor, presented brochures including information and promotional material.

*Resolved* (Cr Yardley/Cr Kirton)

*That the report be received.*

PT 143 **Divisional Report**

**Report 03.567**

File: E/6/11/4

**Follow Up on CCBHB Issues**

Dr Watson said officers of the Regional Council and the District Health Board were at the preliminary stage of discussions and agreements, within budget constraints, will be presented to the Committee in due course.

### **Urban Conference**

Dr Watson said it had joined with Transit, Transfund and the Ministry of Transport in organising a conference on sustainable transport issues in Wellington from 21 – 24 November 2004.

### **Communications**

Dr Watson said, following discussions with the Corporate Communications Manager and senior management, all Council Divisions will have access to additional resources for media communications.

### **Rail Issues**

Dr Watson said that all current rail issues will be discussed at a workshop on 30 October 2003.

*Resolved*

*(Cr Turver/Cr Aitken)*

*That the report be received.*

### **Other Matters**

#### **PT 144      Questions**

Responding to a question from Councillor Long Dr Watson said the Booz Allen Hamilton consultant's report had cost \$40,000.

#### **PT 145      General**

At 11.35am Councillor Turver vacated the chair and left the meeting.

Councillor Aitken then presided in the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Councillor Buchanan also left at 11.35am.

Members noted a broad discussion on the alternatives to urban rail will be discussed at the rail workshop on 30 October 2003. Councillor Long said the Transport Division had no mandate from the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee to spend \$40,000 on the Booz Allen Hamilton consultant's report on the Coasting of an All Bus Alternative to Urban Rail.

Dr Watson said he will circulate previous information on options for the Johnsonville line.

The meeting closed at 12 noon.

Cr C TURVER  
Chairperson