



**Report 04.389**

17 June 2004

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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, 17 June 2004 at 9.30am**

**Present**

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

**Also Present**

Councillor Long

**Officers Present**

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

**Public Business**

**Procedural Items**

PT 184 **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**PT 185 Public Participation****Mr Brent Efford, PT User Representative, Regional Land Transport Committee**

Mr Efford said there should be more bypass capability and fault tolerance in the overhead network for trolley buses and a reduction in the number of breakdowns in the city. Mr Efford gave examples of recent delays and disruption to services and trusted there would be an improvement in the quality and reliability of the service when Greater Wellington took over responsibility for overhead maintenance.

**Mr Tony Randle**

Mr Randle said the business case for the Wellington Urban Passenger Rail had been discussed in a recent Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee meeting and he considered that it should have been more appropriately discussed in the Passenger Transport Committee. Mr Randle said he had difficulty in assessing the worth of the benefit cost ratio for rail and still considered the refurbishment of the Johnsonville line to be unjustified.

Councillor Turver said that while Greater Wellington was involved in discussions with Toll there was a timing issue in terms of keeping up with developments at the most appropriate Council meeting and there was a need to be careful about the information that could be released to the public. Councillor Turver suggested that Dr Watson could make available what information he thought appropriate in the circumstances.

**Mr Wayne Coffey, Director, Wellesley Pacific Ltd**

Mr Coffey said that his company was interested in tendering for harbour ferry services and had recently purchased a 32 passenger hovercraft which will reach Wellington in mid August. The intention is to run the hovercraft as a unique excursion experience. The company will also introduce an additional craft as an alternative to the hovercraft when weather conditions are unsuitable. Wellesley Pacific Ltd will also eventually provide commuter passenger services. Mr Coffey said he was opposed to the continuation of public subsidies to the existing operator and said that any request for additional subsidies for new routes should be declined.

A copy of a letter dated 14 June 2004 to Carolyn Lefebvre and a press release dated 28 May 2004 was circulated.

Following questions Councillors Turver thanked Mr Coffey for an interesting presentation and looked forward to the development of the proposal over the next few months.

**PT 186 Confirmation of Minutes**

Members noted the following additions to the minutes of 7 May 2004:

**PT 174 Apologies**

*Resolved*

*(Cr Kirton/Cr Evans)*

*That the apology for Councillor Foster, for his non-attendance at the Passenger Transport Committee meeting on 7 May 2004, be confirmed.*

**PT 181 Questions**

The following wording in Paragraph PT 181 Questions be amended to read as follows:

**Park and Ride Parking on the Western Side of the Karori Tunnel**

Responding to a question from Councillor Barr, Councillor Turver said that the question of park and ride car parks near the Karori Tunnel was a matter for the Wellington City Council and it will be discussed when the Quality Partnership Agreement Group next meets.

*Resolved*

*(Cr Turver/Cr Thomas)*

*That the minutes of the meeting of 7 May 2004, Report 04.278, as amended above, be confirmed.*

**Ex Councillor Jim Allen, 1998-2001**

Councillor Turver said that Councillor Jim Allen, a Regional Councillor in the previous triennium from 2001 to 2003 had recently passed away. Council had stood in silence as a mark of respect on 31 May 2004. Councillor Turver said Councillor Jim had been a member of the Passenger Transport Committee and he would like to record Jim's memory especially for the way he had worked for the completion of the new Railway Station in Petone.

*Resolved*

*(Cr Turver/Cr Shields)*

*That members and officers record with appreciation the contribution that Councillor Jim Allen had made to the Passenger Transport Committee and particularly his advocacy towards the completion of the Petone Railway Station.*

## Matters for Information

### PT 187 **Bus Priority Lane Improvements**

Councillor Turver referred to a report dated 27 May 2004 from the Wellington City Council City Infrastructure Committee on bus priority lane improvements which had been distributed to members prior to the commencement of today's meeting. Paragraph 12 of Dr Watson's Divisional Report refers.

Mr Stephen Harte of Wellington City Council was present to answer any questions members may have about the report.

Mr Harte said there will be extensions to the three existing bus lane schemes in Kaiwharawhara Road, Adelaide Road and Chaytor Street. A number of benefits follow from these proposed changes. These include the promoting of passenger transport by improving the reliability and journey times for existing buses and indicating the Wellington City Council support for a mode of transport which is highly efficient in terms of road space and energy used per person carried. When the service becomes more efficient and reliable it becomes more attractive to users and in turn the community gains a number of broader benefits.

Mr Harte then answered questions from members.

Councillor Kirton left at 10.25am.

*Resolved*

*(Cr Aitken/Cr Turver)*

*That the Passenger Transport Committee applauds the extensions to the Wellington City Bus Lanes proposed by the Wellington City Council and commends the co-operative nature of the inter-Council discussions on the bus lane priority improvements as an excellent instance of the purposes of the Quality Partnership Agreement.*

Councillor Turver requested that the above resolution be communicated to the Chairperson, City Infrastructure Committee.

### PT 188 **Government Transport Initiatives**

**Report 04.325**

File: TP/01/06/06

*Resolved*

*(Cr Buchanan/Cr Thomas)*

*That the report be received.*

PT 189 **Urban Passenger Rail Update**

**Report 04.324**

File: T/11/02/01

Dr Watson said that the Business Case will be considered by Transfund New Zealand at its next meeting in July. The draft contract had been approved by Transfund New Zealand and will be provided to Toll in due course.

*Resolved*

*(Cr Turver/Cr Barr)*

*That the report be received.*

PT 190 **Divisional Report**

**Report 04.323**

File: E/06/11/04

**Western Corridor Plan Review**

**HRC Accessible Land Transport Submission**

Dr Watson said oral submissions on the enquiry into Accessible Public Land Transport to the Human Rights Commission will not now be heard until 6 October 2004.

**Wellington QPA**

Members discussed the minutes of the Wellington QPA meeting held on 2 June 2004 and the Wellington City Passenger Transport Plan 2004-2009 attached to these minutes. (Attachment 1 to Report 04.323).

Dr Watson said the Wellington Quality Partnership Agreement meeting had discussed an indicative vision and programme for the Wellington City Passenger Transport Plan. The plan is a basis for further discussion and regular reports will be presented to the Passenger Transport Committee. The agreed actions outlined in the QPA minutes were suggestions and will in no way compromise the financial approvals and decision making responsibilities of Greater Wellington.

**Wairarapa Review**

Councillor Buchanan said a workshop would be useful to clarify the issues including rail and access to health services and to develop a clearer understanding of what improvements might be made to the Wairarapa Public Transport Services as a result of the review.

Councillor Long said discussions were taking place in the Wairarapa about access to health services including the purchase of nine seater buses.

## **Presentations to City Councils – Public Transport System Identifier Update**

Following questions from members Dr Watson said there would be a public transport system identifier update on progress at the workshop following today's meeting.

*Resolved*

*(Cr Laidlaw/Cr Shields)*

*That the report be received.*

## **Other Matters**

### **PT 191 Questions**

#### **New Bus Shelter, Queens Drive, Lower Hutt**

Councillor Thomas said there was an urgent need for seats and shelter at the new bus stop in Queens Drive. Lower Hutt.

Mr Grace, Transport Procurement, said plans for a shelter in Queens Drive were under preparation and he will contact Councillor Thomas with further details after the meeting.

### **PT 192 General**

#### **Passenger Transport Strategy**

Councillor Barr asked for an urgent report on the progress of the Passenger Transport Strategy. Councillor Turver asked Dr Watson to prepare a timetable for the next meeting.

#### **Staff Changes**

Councillor Turver said that Carolyn Lefebvre was attending her last meeting of the Committee and was returning to the UK with her family at the end of July. Councillor Turver said Carolyn had worked hard behind the scenes and thanked her for her great contribution during her stay with Greater Wellington.

The meeting closed at 11.45am.

Cr C TURVER  
Chairperson

Date