

Report 07.01

16 November 2006

File: E/06/19/02

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Passenger Transport Committee held in the Wellington Regional Council Chamber, Regional Council Centre, 142 Wakefield Street, Wellington on Thursday, 16 November 2006 at 11.01 am

Present

Councillors Evans (Chairperson), Aitken, Buchanan, Glensor, Greig, Kirton, McDavitt, and Wilde.

Also Present

Councillor Turver

Officers Present

Benham, Braddock, Gabara, Hastie, J Hewitt, R Hewitt, Reay, Richardson, Saywell, and Waayer.

Public Business

Procedural Items

PT 114 **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

PT 115 **Public Participation****Tabled**

Re Transport Action Group (letter). Alan Tristram

The Argument for a Busway on the Johnsonville Corridor. A statement from the Executive Director of the Bus and Coach Association as a deputation to Council.
John Collyns

Busway versus Railway (hard copy of Powerpoint presentation). John Collyns

Issues Affecting Rail: PTC Agenda for 16 November 2006. John Vannisselroy (on behalf of Rail and Maritime Transport Union)

Submission to the Greater Wellington Regional Council Transport Committee.
Sandra K Patton.

A petition comprising 3777 signatures collected by the Kapiti Transport Action Group was accepted by the Committee. The petition asks GWRC to:

- Welcome the 8.6% increase in passenger volumes, which reduces road congestion and shows strong support for public transport.
- Reject options which reduce our rail service, including increasing the proportion of standing passengers.
- Find the necessary funding or seek additional Government funding to increase the capacity of the region's trains to match demand now..

Lindy McIntyre, Alan Tristram, and Mike Woods presented the above petition on behalf of Kapiti Transport Action Group and spoke to it.

The group maintained that the current increase in use of public transport could have been predicted. It complained that trains are too often overcrowded and late, Tranz Metro is communicating poorly about delays, and that fares have increased.

KTAG opposes the removal of seats to make more room for standing passengers, and encourages the refurbishment of old carriages. It urges GW to seek more funding from Central Government, and not to spend money on "charm offensives", or tell ratepayers there is no money to spend on improvements.

The group feels that there needs to be a shift towards public transport, and that the effects of future climate change should be taken into account. It urged GW to plan on a 50-year scale.

Sue Kedgley (on behalf of the NZ Green Party) expressed disappointment in the North Wellington Public Transport Study, and urged GW to challenge the assumptions made. Ms Kedgely urges investment in rail and retaining the Johnsonville line. She opposes the removal of seats to make more room for standing passengers, and encourages the refurbishment of old carriages.

John Collyns (on behalf of the Bus and Coach Association) favours the Johnsonville bus corridor concept. He feels that the proposal is affordable, and would offer a seamless, one-way service. Mr Collyns maintains that bus transport is more flexible and fuel efficient than rail, and that technological change is more rapid.

Dennis Foot regards the North Wellington Public Transport Study to be a “hijack attempt by an anti-rail group” which doesn’t take global warming into account. He feels that a one-way bus system is a retrograde step, as buses use fossil fuel. Mr Foot encourages the retention of the Johnsonville line, and the refurbishment of old carriages.

John Vannisselroy (on behalf of the Rail and Maritime Transport Union) expressed disappointment that GW Officers had not consulted with his group on costings of procuring used carriages from Japan. He predicts that removal of seats from carriages would be unpopular. Also, Tranz Metro has a safety policy which restricts train operations when the standing:seated passenger ratio exceeds 1:1. Mr Vannisselroy regards the North Wellington Public Transport Study as flawed. His group prefers a heavy rail system serviced by small feeder buses.

David Butler discussed future growth of the suburban rail system beyond Waikanae, and raised the possibility of a new station north of that point. He feels that the North Wellington Public Transport analysis is totally flawed, and that there is no place for guided bus and light rail.

Brent Efford (on behalf of Transport +2000) feels that the North Wellington Public Transport Study has been a “13% sideshow”, and that the technical evaluation report is poorly informed on light rail. He feels that there must be a change in mode share in electric train usage.

Tony Randle congratulated GW on its open policy on information sharing. He feels that the report on North Wellington Public Transport Study is seriously flawed, and that the model is “bizarre”. Mr Randle maintains that the ER1 and ER2 rail options have been edited out, and risk has only been built into the busway option. He feels that Central Government influence has been negative.

PT 116 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Resolved

(Cr Evans/Cr McDavitt)

That the Committee:

Confirms the minutes of the meeting of 5 October 2006, Report 06.560.

Matters for Information

PT 117 Train Capacity Project Update

Report 06.643

File: T/18/15/01

Resolved

(Cr McDavitt/Cr Greig)

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the contents of the report.*
3. *Looks forward to receiving further information.*

Noted

Councillor Glensor asked the Committee Chairman to consider convening a meeting of local Members of Parliament, to press a case for increased Government funding for public transport, in light of the Prime Minister's recent speech urging greater response to climate change.

PT 118 Divisional Manager's Report

Report 06.656

File: E/06/19/03

Resolved

(Cr Evans/Cr Aitken)

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Matters for Decision

PT 119 Regional Passenger Transport Plan

Report 06.646

File: E/06/19/03

Resolved

(Cr Evans/Cr McDavitt)

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Adopts the policy positions set out in the draft plan on an interim basis, pending finalisation of the plan.*

PT 120 **North Wellington Public Transport Study**

Report 06.649

File: TP/03/14/01

Resolved

(Cr Evans/Cr Buchanan)

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content and conclusions of the North Wellington Public Transport Study.*
3. *Agrees that the purchase of the twelve addition EMU carriages therefore proceeds, and also that arrangements for the alteration of the tunnels proceed as outlined in the report.*
4. *Agrees that no further consultation is required regarding the North Wellington Public Transport Study.*
5. *Agrees that the study outcomes be communicated in accordance with section 5 of the report.*

Other Matters

PT 121 **Questions**

Councillor McDavitt asked if the Chairman and Officers would be providing a follow-up on the LTNZ visit of 8 November 2006.

PT 122 **General**

There was no general business.

PT 123 **Exclusion of the Public**

Report 06.649

File: E/06/19/01

Resolved

(Cr Kirton/Cr Buchanan)

That the public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting namely:

Bus and ferry procurement review

The general subject of the matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reasons for passing this resolution in relation to this matters and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

<i>General subject of the matter to be considered</i>	<i>Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to the matter</i>	<i>Ground under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
<i>Bus and ferry procurement review</i>	<p><i>To protect information where the making available of that information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or who is the subject of the information.</i></p> <p><i>To enable the Council to carry on negotiations without prejudice or disadvantage.</i></p>	<p><i>That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.</i></p>

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as specified above

The open part of the meeting closed at 1.20 pm.

CR T G G EVANS
Chairperson

Date: