



Report 08.514
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Committee Transport & Access Committee
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Porirua bus service review

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on progress with the review of Porirua bus services.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

Greater Wellington has an ongoing programme of review for all its public bus services across the region. This review programme aims to maintain a high level of satisfaction with the services, including meeting shifts in demand and making the services and the destinations they serve as accessible as possible.

Bus routes in Porirua (including Route 59 to Johnsonville and Routes 61 to 69) were last reviewed in 2003. The 2003 review included a comprehensive consultation phase, and the feedback received from this exercise, combined with wider considerations of the review, assisted with identifying a series of actions to improve the level and accessibility of the bus services in the Porirua area. A series of key changes were implemented over the next two years as a result.

A number of issues and proposals that were parked by the 2003 review for deliberation at a later date are now receiving further consideration. They include:

- City centre routing – to enable better access to the north of the city centre.
- A Porirua ‘Flyer’ bus – similar to the Hutt Valley service to Wellington Airport.
- Enhanced connections with Kenepuru Hospital.

- Links with the new Aotea residential development.

The current review, which began in September 2007, is being conducted in two stages:

- Stage 1 - Consultation: Consultation with key stakeholders to identify any new bus service issues, and determine the importance of the outstanding issues, taking account of the findings of the 2003 review.
- Stage 2 - Implementation: Design, consultation for, and implementation of a package of changes to implement Stage 1 recommendations and improve the efficiency of Porirua bus services.

It is intended that any changes arising from the review will be cost neutral i.e. that the cost of any new services will be off-set by reductions in inefficient services.

4. Consultation

Stage 1, the consultation phase of the current Porirua review, has been completed. Much of this work was undertaken by Sustainable Transport Solutions (STS) on behalf of GW. The final STS report, which details the process and findings of this consultation, is available on request.

The report recommends that:

1. Greater Wellington take an active role in the Porirua city centre revitalisation project, starting with the conceptual stages.
2. All bus routes from Whitby, Porirua East and Johnsonville be extended through Porirua CBD to Tutu Place - noting that:
 - a) New bus stops and other infrastructure works will be required.
 - b) Bus services will continue to connect with trains at the railway station.
3. Greater Wellington support and further investigate the potential for a Flyer service between Porirua and the airport, by facilitating discussions between the various parties.
4. Greater Wellington provide bus services through the Aotea development as soon as possible.
5. Greater Wellington provide an interim loop service into the Aotea development if this can be achieved expediently and with minimal operational costs.
6. Greater Wellington provide later evening services to Titahi Bay that are consistent with the Ascot Park (Route 61) hours of operation, and consider combining both Titahi Bay routes in the late evening.
7. Greater Wellington consider the provision of later services to Whitby, along similar grounds to that recommended for Titahi Bay.

5. Implementation

Stage 2, the implementation phase of the current Porirua review, will begin shortly. It is expected to be completed before the end of the year, and will involve:

- Development of a package of bus service changes to implement the Stage 1 recommendations, incorporating improvements that will better meet Operational Plan network efficiency and level of service guidelines.
- Changes to routes to direct them through the Porirua CBD.
- Timetable and costing of the proposed package of changes.
- Public consultation on the proposed package of changes.
- Consideration of implementation and contract requirements (including tendering requirements/timeframes).
- Reporting of final recommendations to Transport and Access Committee.

STS will provide ongoing assistance, particularly with the consultation task.

6. Communication

No communication is required at this stage. Public consultation will occur later, as part of Stage 2 of the review.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Notes that the Stage 2 implementation phase will start shortly, and that final service change recommendations will be reported back to the Committee later in the year.*

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