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Committee Passenger Transport
Author Doug Weir Public Transport Planner

Service Review Update

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on the status of current service reviews.

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. Johnsonville/Newlands bus services

As the Committee was informed at the September Committee meeting, Greater Wellington is currently working with Mana Coach Services to implement a range of service improvements in the Johnsonville/Newlands area.

These changes will combine to provide:

- More peak services
- More direct bus routes to and from Wellington
- New routes that make services easier to understand
- Better connections to and from Porirua, particularly to Whitireia Polytechnic and Kenepuru Hospital.

The changes were previously scheduled for implementation on Monday 13 October, but will now take place on Tuesday 28 October (the day after Labour Day).

4. Kapiti bus services

4.1 Proposed service changes

The Committee was informed of proposed service changes for the Raumati/Paraparaumu/Waikanae areas at the September Committee Meeting. These are intended to provide the service efficiencies that are required to fund the Kapiti Plus integrated ticket (currently under trial), while improving the overall service level in this area.

In summary, the proposed changes will:

- Simplify the network and reduce travel times between the main centres of population, Coastlands shopping centre and Paraparaumu railway station.
- Match frequencies to patronage, removing some off peak services (particularly between 9am and 3 pm on weekdays), but allowing the provision of more peak and weekend services.
- Maintain connections with train services.

Key aspects of the proposed changes are:

- Route 71 (Paraparaumu Station to Paraparaumu Beach): A reduction, from half-hourly to hourly, in the weekday off-peak service frequency. Passengers will still have a choice of other buses to Paraparaumu Beach on the half hour, via the Route 72 or 73 services.
- Route 72 (Paraparaumu Station to Paraparaumu Beach): A more direct route linking Guildford Drive to Gray Avenue, via Murray Court instead of Kapiti Road. This will improve travel times and service coverage in an area that has seen significant recent urban development. Weekday off peak services, between about 9am and 3pm, will be reduced from half hourly to hourly.
- Route 73 (Paraparaumu Station to Paraparaumu Beach and Raumati Beach): A significant change in route, allowing the provision of fast, frequent and direct service between Paraparaumu Station and Paraparaumu Beach. The route will travel from Paraparaumu Station, along Kapiti Road to Paraparaumu Beach, and then on to Raumati Beach via the current route. This will lengthen the journey to and from Paraparaumu Station for Raumati passengers, but their alternative route, Route 74, will be changed to improve journey times from the Raumati area. New weekend services will be introduced.
- Route 74 (Paraparaumu Station to Raumati Beach): A significant change in route, to improve journey times between Paraparaumu Station and Coastlands, and Raumati Beach and Raumati South. There are two route options:

- Option A: The route will run as it does now from Paraparaumu Station to Poplar Avenue, but will only travel the loop via Tennis Court and Jeep Roads and The Esplanade at peak times. Instead of returning from the Raumati Shops the same way as it has come (as it does at present), the route will continue as a one-way loop along Raumati Road, to rejoin the current route back to Paraparaumu Station at the Hillcrest Rd / Raumati Rd intersection.
- Option B: The route will follow the current Route 73 route from Paraparaumu Station to Raumati Beach shops, and then follow the current Route 74 route to the Menin Rd / Renown Rd intersection. From there it will loop in a clockwise direction down Menin Rd and Hillcrest Rd to Matai Rd, and follow the current route as a one-way loop (via Kainui Rd instead of Jeep Rd) back to the Menin Rd/Renown Rd intersection, to rejoin the outbound route back to Paraparaumu Station.
- Route 75 (Lindale Shuttle): Only slight timing changes are proposed for this route.
- Route 77 (Paraparaumu Station to Waikanae Beach): The route will not be changed, but weekday off-peak services between about 9am and 3pm will be reduced, from half-hourly to hourly, connecting with the trains. Saturday services will also reduce from half-hourly to hourly, connecting with the trains.

No changes are proposed for the Route 77K (Kapiti Commuter) or the Route 78 and 79 (Otaihanga and Paekakariki) shopper services at this time, although the shopper services are currently under review due to low passenger numbers.

4.2 Consultation

Consultation with the public commences on 17 October, and will run to 10 November. A leaflet outlining all the changes and inviting feedback will be delivered to all households in the area. Discussions have been held with Kapiti Coast District Council, and letters have been sent to community boards and iwi. Newspaper advertisements and posters in buses are planned. And a display will be held at Coastlands on 30 October.

4.3 SuperGold implications

The proposed changes need to be considered in light of the new SuperGold card travel scheme. The changes do include a reduced level of service at weekday off-peak times, but provide an increase in services at weekends. The current weekday off-peak loadings are very low, and it is considered the new combination of week-day and weekend offers a more comprehensive package of off-peak services than is now available.

4.4 Next steps

Submissions on the proposed changes will be analysed and final service details will be agreed between this Council and the operator of the service. The outcome of this process will be reported to the November meeting of this Committee.

It is expected that the service changes will be implemented early next year.

5. Porirua bus service review

Council officers have met with Mana Coachlines and Roger Bowker (the former director of Stagecoach Group who is working for Mana and who assisted with the development of the Johnsonville/Newlands service changes), to discuss and further develop proposals for Porirua. Consultation on the proposals will occur early in 2009.

An assessment of the needs of the Tawa and Cambourne/Plimmerton areas (added to the Porirua review at the last Committee meeting) is also being undertaken.

6. Wellington bus service review

Preliminary planning for the Wellington review continues. This has mostly centred around finalising the terms of reference, and discussions with Wellington City Council regarding their proposals for the “golden mile”.

7. Communication

Extensive communication of the various changes will be undertaken.

Publicity for the changes in Johnsonville/Newlands has commenced, and new timetables produced.

Consultation on the Kapiti changes has commenced.

8. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Receives the report*
- 2. Notes the content of the report*
- 3. Notes that the changes to the Johnsonville/Newlands services come into effect on 28 October*
- 4. Notes that consultation on proposed service changes in Kapiti is underway, and that the outcome of this process will be reported to the November meeting of this committee.*

Report prepared by:

Doug Weir
Public Transport Planner

Report approved by:

Brian Baxter
Manager, Design and
Development

Report approved by:

Wayne Hastie
Divisional Manager, Public
Transport