

Report 11.81
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Committee Economic Wellbeing Committee
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General Managers' report to the Economic Wellbeing Committee meeting on 17 March 2011

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of Greater Wellington activities relating to the Committee's areas of responsibility.

2. Public Transport Group

2.1 Response to Public Participation

PT Voice

Real time information – PT Voice welcomed the coming real-time information system, urged rapid implementation of it on rail, and sought information on the implementation timetable.

Response: The implementation timetable was presented at the committee meeting, and a copy of the timetable has been sent to PT Voice.

Integrated/electronic Ticketing – PT Voice encouraged GW to progress these projects.

Response: Noted.

Regional Passenger Transport Plan – PT Voice encouraged GW to adopt the “layered” service approach as soon as possible.

Response: Noted.

2.2 20 February Service Changes

On 20 February many changes to service in the region were introduced:

- The rail timetables changed as a consequence of the extension of the electric train service to Waikanae
- All bus services that connected with trains also had timetable changes
- The Porirua review changes were introduced
- Changes from the review of services in Kapiti were introduced, including changes to the Waikanae and Otaki bus services.

The change largely went smoothly, although some problems were caused in the first week by several rail failures. A subsequent minor adjustment was made on 7 March to the Otaki service to accommodate a group of primary school children travelling from Paraparaumu to the Kura Kaupapa in Otaki.

2.3 Real time information

Progress with the RTI (real time information) project continues positively towards the proposed launch event scheduled for 31 March. This will mark the availability to the public of the first live real time information, for all Go Wellington bus services, and the installation of the first display signs at Lambton interchange. From the same time, RTI will also be available via the Metlink website.

The next roll-out phase will extend RTI to Valley Flyer bus services from late May. Preparatory civil engineering and electrical supply works for the display sign installation programme is scheduled to begin early in April. The manufacture of the initial batch of display mounting poles and the Wellington CBD 'totem' display units by two separate fabricators in Christchurch is currently suspended, but is expected to be recovered shortly. Work continues with KiwiRail on the development of the RTI for rail project.

2.4 Matangi trains

The current target date for the re-introduction of the first new Matangi train is the week of 21 March. While this is later than had been anticipated, it is important that the correct commissioning procedures are followed. Once the first train has been fully commissioned, the process for other units is less onerous.

Details of how the new trains will be deployed on the network are being worked out so that they can provide the maximum benefit. It is likely to be a further two months before a 6 car train can run due to the need to undertake some further signal work.

However, the trains are performing well with no major known faults.

3. Catchment Management Group

The key issues raised over the last month for the Flood Protection department of the Catchment Management Group have been:

- Wainuiomata Flood Hazard Assessment and the questions regarding the accuracy of the data and its suitability for the provision of flood hazard advice. This matter will be discussed at the Hutt valley Floodplain Sub Committee on 23 March 2011.
- Dr Russel Norman's rafting trip down the Ruamahanga River and his comments about the nature and extent of the erosion protection works undertaken by the department. A response to that report is being prepared.

In terms of progress on projects we have:

- Prepared a draft agreement with the Boulcott Farm Heritage Golf Club for access to their land for the construction of the Boulcott Stopbank, with a view to taking a final agreement to full Council at the end of April.
- Commenced the next stages of the Waiwhetu FMP with a series of public meetings with residents from the area and with industry groups from Seaview and Naenae.

4. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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