

Confirmed Public minutes of the Transport Committee meeting on Thursday 5 August 2021

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 9.30am.

Members Present

Councillor Blakeley (Chair)
Councillor Lee (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Brash
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Gaylor
Councillor Hughes
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lamason
Councillor Ponter
Councillor Nash
Councillor Staples
Councillor van Lier

Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair invited Councillor Lee to open the meeting with a karakia timatanga – whakataka te hau.

Public Business

1 Apologies

There were no apologies.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

Pete Gent spoke on a Snapper on rail trial and payment options on the rail system.

The Pōneke Collective for Public Transport Equity, represented by Katherine Blow, Mika Herval, Gina Dao-Mclay, Tessa Guest, Khushboo Singh and Elizabeth Hodgson, spoke on a pilot of free public transport for students and community services card holders.

Noted: The Committee Chair provided the Pōneke Collective a copy of the letter sent by the Council Chair to the Minister of Transport requesting that the Wellington Region be included in the Community Connect concession pilot.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Transport Committee meeting on 10 June 2021 - Report 21.254

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Lamason

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Transport Committee meeting on 10 June 2021 – Report 21.254.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Update on progress of action items – August 2021 – Report 21.348 [For information]

Scott Gallacher, General Manager, Metlink, spoke to the report.

6 Earlybird Off-Peak Bus Fare Trial – Report 21.328

Tim Shackleton, Manager, Strategy and Investments, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Ponter

That the Committee:

- 1 Notes that, on 4 February 2020, Council agreed to proceed with an Earlybird off-peak bus fares trial (the Trial) to provide off-peak Snapper fares for Metlink bus services prior to 7am on working days - Earlybird off-peak fares trial (Report 20.22).
- 2 Notes that, on 21 May 2020 (Report 20.147), as a result of the impact on patronage caused by COVID-19, Council agreed to suspend the Trial until February 2021 and then reinstate it for a period of three months
- 3 Notes that on 6 May 2021 (Report 21.157), as a result of the continued impact on patronage caused by the changes to COVID-19 alert levels, the Committee agreed to extend the Trial for a period of three additional months from 22 May 2021.
- 4 Notes that the Trial was to be monitored continually against success criteria to determine whether the Trial was effective in spreading peak demand on the bus network in Wellington City.
- 5 Agrees to adopt a 25 percent off-peak discount for bus travel prior to 7am.
- 6 Agrees to consider other demand management options as part of the fares transition planning in the lead up to the National Ticketing Solution (NTS).

- 7 Notes that Council consideration of the revised fares policy for the NTS is expected by the end of 2021 with public consultation on fares planned for the 2022 calendar year.
- 8 Notes that should the Committee agree with the recommended retention of the 25% discount, the proposed change will be formally publicised through appropriate channels.

The motion was **carried**.

7 Report of the Public Transport Advisory Group Meeting – 8 July 2021 – Report 21.329
[For information]

Cr Lee spoke to the report.

The meeting adjourned at 10.39am and resumed at 10.55am

The Committee Chair accorded priority to agenda item 9 – *Operator update – Uzabus*, in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.2.

8 Operator Update – UzaBus – Oral Report [For information]

Justin Allan, Company Director, UzaBus, tabled a presentation and spoke to the Committee regarding Uzabus's operations.

Mr Allan advised that Uzabus is an amalgamation of seven-passenger transport companies and in October 2020, celebrated its 100-year anniversary. It is a family-owned business with Mr Allan the third generation Director. The company's work consists of 65 percent contracts, 25 percent charters and, until the impact of COVID-19, 10 percent cruise and tours.

Uzabus were awarded the Metlink Kāpiti Unit 14 contract which commenced July 2018 operating a total of 21 vehicles. Mr Allan provided the Committee detail on Uzabus's 21 fleet vehicles and future fleet developments, including a three-month trial of Yutong 12 metre electric bus.

Mr Allan noted that Uzabus provides strong performance to Metlink, with no abatements from contract commencement and consistently reports strong reliability and punctuality data. Mr Allan credited his team for achieving this result and advised that positive employee relations and driver retention efforts are key in maintaining the strong results.

9 Public Transport Performance – June 2021 – Report 21.327 [For information]

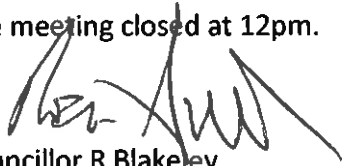
Scott Gallacher, General Manager, Metlink, spoke to the report.

Mr Gallacher provided an update with new data made available after the publication of the report. Mr Gallacher advised that cancellations for operator Tranzurban have decreased to approximately 2 percent since the implementation of new timetables on Sunday 25 July 2021.

Mr Gallacher also provided an update on the launch of the new hospital express service which was developed in consultation with the Capital and Coast District Health Boards. This new route runs along the "second spine" as an express service between the hospital

and railway station at times of morning and evening changes of shifts. A communication plan will be developed to publicise the route.

The meeting closed at 12pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Blakeley', written over the text 'The meeting closed at 12pm.'

Councillor R Blakeley

Chair

Date: