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## **Report 00.688**

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Report to the Passenger Transport Committee  
By Anthony Cross, Manager, Public Transport

### **Public Transport Update: September 2000**

#### **1. Purpose**

To update the Committee on recent developments and work in progress in the Public Transport Department.

#### **2. Service Issues**

##### **2.1 After Midnight Service for Kapiti**

By the time the Committee meets, Councillor Turver and Andrea Houchen and I will have taken part in the judging of the Council of Youth in Kapiti's poster competition for the Wellington to Kapiti late night bus service. In addition to contributing the first prize of \$250.00, we hope to be able to make use of the winning entry on posters and timetables as we did for the Hutt Valley service.

The service is due to start on the weekend of 8 and 9 October 2000. Initially it will consist of two trips each Friday night/Saturday morning and Saturday night/Sunday morning.

An "on request" service will meet the 11.00 pm train from Wellington (arriving at Paraparaumu at 11.55 pm), which will serve Waikanae, Waikanae Beach, Paraparaumu Beach, Raumati Beach and Raumati South as required.

The bus will then travel into Wellington to provide a service from Courtenay Place at 2.00 am, which will carry passengers to Mana, Plimmerton and Pukerua Bay for a \$5.00 fare, and to Paekakariki, Raumati South, Raumati Beach, Paraparaumu Beach, Paraparaumu, Waikanae and Waikanae Beach for a \$10.00 fare.

The service will be operated by Mana Coach Services Ltd at a price of \$34,900 per annum. This is the gross price; being a trial service, the Council will be taking the risk on revenue. Each month we will pay the company the contract price less the amount they have received in fares in that month.

## 2.2 Churton Park, Grenada Village, Newlands

... **Attached** is a copy of an advertisement we recently placed in the Newlands Paparangi Post, outlining the proposed bus route changes in the area. We will follow this up in the next few weeks with a brochure showing all the new routes in map form, together with the proposed bus stops. At this stage we are hoping to introduce the new services in November.

## 2.3 Days Bay – Queens Wharf Ferry Service

... Members of the Committee may have seen recent coverage of the new “Evening Post Ferry”, which will shortly replace the “WestpacTrust Ferry” in the service of East by West Company Ltd. **Attached** are an item from the Evening Post and details of the vessel. It will be interesting to see whether the new sponsorship arrangement will enable the ferry service to once again be registered as a commercial service.

## 2.4 Miramar and Seatoun Express Routes Survey

... Two reports from the survey are **attached**. One shows the answers to the question “In your view what should be the Regional Council’s first priority for improving the Eastern Suburbs express service?” The other lists all the general comments received, most of which were positive.

## 3. Contracts Expiring in 2000

We have applied to Transfund New Zealand for permission to extend contracts expiring between now and this time next year, for up to two years. The purpose of this request is to defer tendering until we have a clearer understanding of what the new funding regime will mean – in other words, how much money will be available for spending on new and increased services. We will not know the outcome of this request until Transfund’s board meets on 21 September, but expect it to be favourable.

## 4. Timetables on the Web

... Promotion of the timetable website began in the week beginning 14 August 2000. The advertising for the site includes posters (example **attached**), stickers on buses and trains, and envelope-sized cards.

Apart from a number of e-mails from people needing help with navigating around the site (in response to which we have made some changes) the feedback has been very positive. Our favourite response so far is “The site is way cool!” The site’s address is [www.wrc.govt.nz/timetables](http://www.wrc.govt.nz/timetables).

The posters and stickers include the slogan “Wellington Regional Council – funding your bus and train services”, as an interim step towards a more extensive revamp of the image of the Council’s public transport image so as to increase awareness of the Council’s role in this area. Items to be included will be timetables, the bus and train guide, advertisements, notices and posters, and signs for purposes as diverse as route direction, end of section, “please signal your bus”, and park and ride facilities.

**5. Total Mobility**

... **Attached** for the Committee's information is a letter from IHC Advocacy Services outlining their recent efforts to increase the political profile of Total Mobility.

**6. Recommendation**

*That the report be received and the information noted.*

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

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**Attachments : 5**