



Report 09.741  
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Committee Transport & Access Committee  
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## Service review update - November 2009

### 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. Kapiti bus service review

Services have now been in place for three months. Officers continue to monitor them and will review their success once sufficient data are available. A public commitment was made at the time that the service changes were implemented to undertake such a review within twelve months.

Committee members will recall that there are some issues relating to the routing of Route 261 (between Paraparaumu Beach and the train station). A meeting has been organised to discuss these issues later this month. Representatives of residents of the two affected streets (Langdale Avenue and Guildford Drive), Kapiti Coast District Council and Mana Coach Services have been invited. It is hoped that some consensus will be achieved on the appropriate service for this area.

### 4. Porirua bus service review

A map showing proposed changes to the Porirua bus routes was distributed at the last meeting. The proposed changes were developed to incorporate public feedback during consultation and focus group meetings.

Officers are finalising the proposed new bus schedules in consultation with the bus operator. These will include a number of changes to the map previously distributed, due to the complexities of bus scheduling and in particular the requirement to make improvements within existing budgets.

The public will be given an opportunity to view the proposed changes shortly, on Greater Wellington's website, and in a brochure that will be made available in key locations and on request. Feedback received will be considered when the final timetables are put together early next year. The go-live date for changes will depend on negotiations with the bus operator, but is anticipated to be before the end of June 2010.

Further detail on the proposed changes including an updated network map and information on frequencies and hours of operation will be provided at the meeting.

## **5. Wellington public transport review**

The Initial Consultation stage of the Review is expected to be largely complete by the end of the year. In addition to public consultation, the following key stakeholders will have been consulted as part of this process:

Consulted directly:

- Wellington City Council
- Public transport operators: NZ Bus, Mana Coach Services, Tranz Metro, East by West Ferries, and Wellington Cable Car
- Taxi Federation
- Residents' and progressive associations
- High schools
- Māori. We will seek the guidance of Ara Tahi on the appropriate level of Māori consultation for area-wide reviews at the December Ara Tahi meeting. We then expect to consult further based on the recommendations of this committee.

Consulted directly with the assistance of Premium Research:

- Victoria University
- Massey University
- Wellington Airport
- Capital & Coast District Health Board
- Hutt Valley District Health Board
- Regional Public Health
- Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce
- NZ Retailers Association
- Positively Wellington Tourism
- Sport Wellington
- Rita Angus and Malvina Major retirement villages.

Consulted in workshop format with the assistance of Premium Research:

- Public transport user group 1: public transport advocates
- Public transport user group 2: focus group of respondents to the public consultation process
- Disability user group

- Bus drivers
- Travel planners: participants in Greater Wellington's Workplace Travel Plan scheme.

The inaugural Reference Group meeting was held on 12 November. The Group, which consists of representatives of Wellington City Council, NZ Bus, Mana Coach Services and Tranz Metro, was updated on the work on the Review to date and plans for the next stage. The next Reference Group meeting will be held in early March.

## **5.1 Central area bus operational review**

Committee members received a presentation on the outcome of this review (undertaken for Greater Wellington) at the last committee meeting. Greater Wellington has now received the final report, which recommends a range of improvements to bus operations in the Wellington CBD. These recommendations will be considered further over the coming months.

## **5.2 Manners Mall**

A Greater Wellington submission, supporting the opening of Manners Mall to buses, was made to Wellington City Council. The Committee Chair made an oral presentation to WCC in support of the submission.

A decision on the Mall is expected to be made by WCC on 10 December.

## **6. Minor reviews**

### **6.1 Rail timetable review**

A draft rail timetable is expected to be ready by the end of this month.

### **6.2 Paekakariki and Otaihanga services**

Committee members will recall that the Otaihanga and Paekakariki services have had low (and declining) patronage over recent years. Changes to the services were introduced on 17 August at the same time as the other bus service changes in Kapiti.

The changes included a reduction in frequency for the Paekakariki service from five days a week to three (Otaihanga remained a twice weekly service), the introduction of a phone booking system, the inclusion of the South Raumati area into the catchment area for the Paekakariki bus, and a \$1 increase in the fare.

While the new system has been in operation for only three months, passenger numbers to date are up (by approximately 20% on the equivalent period last year), as is the average passengers per trip (up from approximately 2.5 to 4.5). And the phone booking system seems to be working well.

**7. Communication**

No communications are required at this time.

**8. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

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

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