

Report 10.100  
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Committee Transport & Access Committee  
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## Regional Public Transport Plan – discussion document

### 1. Purpose

To seek Committee approval for the release of a discussion document on the draft Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP).

### 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. Background

The terms of reference for development of the RPTP were agreed by the Transport and Access Committee on 9 February 2010 (**Report 10.16**). The terms of reference included the preparation of a discussion document.

### 4. Comment

The discussion document is set out in **Attachment 1**. The purpose of the discussion document is to facilitate feedback from key stakeholders on matters that should be considered by Greater Wellington when preparing the RPTP.

The discussion document is primarily targeted at public transport operators and territorial authorities as well as other statutory stakeholders<sup>1</sup>. Letters inviting comment have been sent to these organizations and to local public transport advocates and resident's associations. The discussion document will also be made available on the Greater Wellington website. Further information on the consultation process is set out in section 5 below.

The discussion document has two key sections (delivering public transport services in the region; and public transport objectives, policies and methods) which are outlined below. Our approach to specifying notice periods, controls, and contracting requirements is also outlined below.

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<sup>1</sup> The statutory stakeholders are the Regional Transport Committee, the New Zealand Transport Agency, public transport operators, the Minister of Education, territorial authorities and NZ Railways Corporation, as set out in section 20(1) of the Public Transport Management Act 2008.

## **4.1 Delivering public transport services in this region**

Section three of the discussion document describes the role of public transport in the region and introduces the concept of an “integrated public transport network framework” to guide the provision of public transport services and infrastructure. The framework includes a proposed “priority public transport network” that links the main destinations across the region and is intended to be given higher priority when designing services. The priority public transport network is intended to be relatively robust and not change too much, so that people can make decisions as to where they live and make decisions on where development is to take place.

The public transport services proposed to be provided (or continue to be provided) are also described in section three. These service descriptions are provided to enable stakeholders to comment on the manner in which we propose to describe services and also to comment on our proposed approach to grouping of services into units.

The grouping of services into units is an important issue as this is one area that the Ministry of Transport has indicated may be impacted by proposed changes to the Public Transport Management Act 2008 (PTMA). It is also relevant to the potential use of controls on commercial public transport services as discussed in section 4.3 below.

## **4.2 Public transport objectives, policies and methods**

Section four of the discussion document identifies twelve objectives that are proposed to replace the current Regional Passenger Transport Plan objectives. These are essentially a rewording of the objectives in the existing Plan.

The discussion document does not identify any policies or implementation methods. These will be developed once we have feedback on the proposed objectives.

## **4.3 Notice periods, controls and contracting requirements**

The PTMA enables regional councils to specify in the RPTP:

- minimum notice periods for the registration, variation and withdrawal of commercial public transport services.
- controls and contracting requirements.

The use of controls and contracting requirements is contentious with public transport operators because they limit what commercial public transport operators can do.

### **4.3.1 Notice periods**

Notice periods for registration, variation and withdrawal of commercial public transport services are proposed in the discussion document. It also proposes that Greater Wellington work with operators to seek voluntary agreement to

extend the minimum notice period for withdrawing a commercial public transport service. This is to provide sufficient time to, if necessary, procure an alternative public transport service to replace the withdrawn service.

#### 4.3.2 Controls

Controls are a means of ensuring the same standards apply to commercial services as apply to other (contracted) public transport services. Controls must be specified in the RPTP and impose certain requirements on commercial public transport services.

There are strict rules around the use of controls, including that any control must contribute to the implementation of policies in the RPTP. There must also be no more effective means of implementing the policies, and impacts on operators must be assessed, and transitional arrangements must be put in place (in some instances) to manage impacts on existing operators.

It is likely that controls will be required in the RPTP to address the grouping of services into units and to ensure integration of fare and ticketing products. The decision on whether to include controls or not will be made following feedback on the discussion document.

#### 4.3.3 Contracting requirements

The PTMA allows councils to require that all or certain services be delivered under contract (i.e. restrict the provision of commercial services).

Commercial services have an important role in public transport in the Wellington region and therefore we do not intend to make use of any contracting requirements. The Minister of Transport has also signalled his intention to repeal these provisions.

## 5. **Communication / next steps**

Subject to Committee approval, the attached discussion document will be distributed to stakeholders and made available on Greater Wellington's website. Submitters will have until 19 April 2010 to provide written feedback.

Officers have written to stakeholders inviting feedback, and are currently organising a series of meetings during the consultation period for face-to-face discussions. The target groups for these meetings include public transport operators, territorial authorities, public transport advocates and resident's associations who have indicated an interest. The consultation will be co-ordinated where possible with that for other Council documents, such as the Regional Land Transport Strategy.

Committee members will be invited to meetings involving the public but we do not intend to hold open public meetings on the discussion document. This is because the public are not the target audience at this stage of consultation. Wider public consultation, including public meetings, will occur once the draft RPTP is approved.

All feedback received will be used in preparing the draft RPTP, which is scheduled to be considered for approval by this Committee at its 15 June 2010 meeting. Consultation on the draft RPTP is scheduled for June and July 2010.

## **6. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Approves the Regional Public Transport Plan discussion document (Attachment 1) for consultation.*
4. *Delegates to the Chair of the Transport and Access Committee authority to approve any final amendments to the discussion document.*

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**Attachment 1: Regional Public Transport Plan discussion document**