
MINUTES
of the
TASMAN REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING
held
1.30 pm, Thursday, 26 October 2017
at
Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

Present: Councillors S G Bryant (Chair), C M Maling, D E McNamara, D J Ogilvie and P F Sangster and Mr J Harland

Mr W Findlater, Inspector I McKenzie, Ms J Murray and Dr K Thompson

In Attendance: Activity Planning Manager (D L Fletcher), Transportation Manager (J McPherson), Activity Planning Adviser (D Bryant), Consultant (R Palmer), NZTA representative (A James) and Executive Assistant (R L Scherer)

1 OPENING, WELCOME

Cr Bryant welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Moved Cr Maling/Cr Ogilvie
TRTC17-10-1

That apologies from Mr Frank Hippolite and Ms D Smith be accepted.
CARRIED

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Zackary Domike spoke in support of the proposed Wakefield/Brightwater bus service and noted that the provision of bus services improves community health and supports people who are home bound.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr McNamara/Cr Ogilvie
TRTC17-10-2

That the minutes of the Tasman Regional Transport Committee meeting held on Monday, 27 March 2017, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

6 PRESENTATIONS

Ms Kate Malcolm circulated a presentation on behalf of Nelsust regarding the Wakefield express bus service feasibility study. She noted that over 1000 petitioners had requested a trial bus service and that Nelsust are disappointed with the outcomes of the feasibility study. Ms Malcolm spoke about comparable bus fares in other centres within the country and ways to reduce costs for bus services. She urged the Council to trial a bus service so that real data can be used for a business case.

7 REPORTS

7.1 Public Transport Services Review

Drew Bryant and Rhys Palmer spoke to the report contained in the agenda which was taken as read. Mr Bryant summarised the key points of the review and noted that public transport was a high priority issue in the 2015 Activity Management Plans. However, he also noted that the recent feasibility study had determined that fares for the proposed bus service would be exorbitant and are unlikely to attract passengers.

In response to a question, Mr Bryant said that staff had looked at linking a service from Wakefield with the existing bus services provided between Richmond and Nelson.

Dr Thompson suggested that a smaller bus may be more cost-effective, eg a shuttle bus. In response, Mr Bryant noted that smaller shuttle buses had been included in the review.

In response to a question, Mr Bryant said staff had looked at Ms Malcolm's presentation earlier and he had contacted staff at New Plymouth District Council who are quoted in the Nelsust presentation. He noted that the New Plymouth service only runs one day a week and is heavily subsidised by the Council.

Mr Palmer suggested that gains in mode shift would be best made in the greater Richmond area.

In response to a question regarding ride-sharing, it was noted that not everyone is comfortable about using ride-share options. Mr Bryant noted that Nelson City Council is currently working on a ride-sharing initiative and Tasman District Council is able to tap into that service. It is open to Nelson and Richmond residents and will be more widely promoted in the future. He noted that ride-sharing is managed through a website and is relatively easy to use.

Mr Fletcher spoke about the bus service from a strategic perspective and agreed that the

Council also wanted mode shift in how people use transport to get to and from their destinations. He cautioned the committee about committing significant staff time to look at every available option. For example, he noted that the option of using a local person to drive a bus would require a lot of staff time to investigate and that in the end, it may not be feasible.

Cr Ogilvie suggested that he could present the findings of the report and the outcome of today's meeting to both the Motueka Community Board and the Wakefield Community Council so that they can promote a service and save staff time while the communities investigate options. In response, Mr Fletcher agreed that there is the opportunity for the community to look at options and then come back to the Council with a proposal. He also spoke about the "stated intentions" of people who said they would use the bus versus the reality for a long-term bus service.

Cr Sangster spoke about a previous Golden Bay to Nelson bus service which had operated for over 50 years. Over time the service dwindled down to two passengers and was not cost effective. He urged the Council to promote ride-sharing as a solution.

Mr Harland spoke about the numbers of people who would use any service at an economic scale.

In response, Mr Palmer noted that in the last census of the total population of Brightwater (1749 residents), 900 were employed and of those 132 worked in Richmond with 84 driving to Richmond. In Wakefield (2106 residents), 1050 people were employed and 150 of those worked in Richmond; 84 people drove to Richmond. These figures suggest that there is already a high proportion of people who already use the ride-share option.

Cr McNamara noted that the proposed service would not meet everyone's needs as the petition included requests for a range of different timelines for a bus service.

Jane Murray suggested that the committee also needs to consider bus services in the longer term. She said that people need regular, reliable and easy to use bus services.

In response to a question, Mr Bryant confirmed that staff had spoken to two bus companies about the costs for the proposed services. Both had said that they would not run a commercial service on their own.

Moved Cr Sangster/Cr McNamara TRTC17-10-3

That the Tasman Regional Transport Committee:

- 1. receives the Public Transport Services Review report, TRTC17-10-01; and**
- 2. agrees that work cease on proposals for a Motueka or Wakefield public transport express service; and**
- 3. agrees that work cease on a proposal for a full extension of the existing Richmond - Nelson service until Nelson City Council completes a fundamental review of their service, expected in 2020/21; and**
- 4. agrees that a new Richmond bus service proceed to a business case; and**
- 5. recommends to the Full Council that a new Richmond bus service be included in the draft Long Term Plan 2018-2028 and Regional Land Transport Plan 2018 for consultation.**

CARRIED

8 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION
Nil

The meeting concluded at 2.25 pm.

Date Confirmed:

Chair: