

**Report 99.127**

16 March 1999

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**Report of the Meeting of the Passenger Transport Committee  
held in the Wellington Regional Council Chamber, The Regional  
Council Centre, 142-146 Wakefield Street, Wellington on  
Tuesday, 16 March 1999 at 9.30am**

<p><b>Matters for Council Decision are shown in bold type and enclosed in a box.</b> <i>Matters for Information of Council are in italic type.</i></p>
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**Present**

Councillors McDavitt (Chairperson), Allen, Bonner, Buchanan, Gibson, Macaskill, McQueen, Shields and Turver and Councillor Kedgley

**Officers Present**

Messrs Brennand, Cross, Darroch, Stone and Dr Watson

**Procedural Items**

PT 21      **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**Public Participation****Mrs Ann Bain, Chairperson, Wellington Branch Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Inc**

Mrs Ann Bain congratulated the Wellington Regional Council on its commitment to continue the Total Mobility Scheme. Mrs Bain said that her Association was also pleased that the Wellington Regional Council wished to find ways to have nationwide consistency in the administration of the Scheme.

A copy of a letter from Mrs Bain to the Regional Council dated 16 March 1999 was circulated to members.

**Peter Kennedy-Good, Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind**

Mr Kennedy-Good said his organisation was pleased with the recommendations contained in today's order paper about Total Mobility. Mr Kennedy-Good said there needed to be debate locally and nationally with Government and disability agencies about the long-term future of the Total Mobility Scheme. The Regional Council's extra funding gave a breathing space for the existing scheme and enabled further work to be done.

Councillor McDavitt thanked Mrs Bain and Mr Kennedy-Good for their representations and said they were welcome to remain for the discussion on Total Mobility.

**Ian Gaskin, Gold and Black Taxis (1995) Ltd, Wellington**

Mr Gaskin said he was speaking to his submission for exemption of the 24-hour taxi service requirement. Mr Gaskin said the costs involved in providing a 24-hour service had made taxi fares very expensive and an exemption would result in a reduction in fares for Wellington customers.

**Garth Harrison, Capital City Cabs, 12 Argentine Avenue, Miramar**

Mr Harrison said he wished to support Mr Gaskin's application for an exemption from the 24-hour requirement. Mr Harrison said that the ordinary commercial laws of supply and demand would take care of the situation and suggested that for a trial period of one calendar year a blanket exemption be given to all taxi organisations operating in the Wellington region.

**Arthur Attrill, Wellington City Cabs, PO Box 14767, Kilbirnie**

Mr Attrill said he supported the application of Gold and Black Taxis to be granted an exemption from operating a 24-hour 7-days a week taxi service. Mr Attrill said he was convinced that the anomaly of requiring taxi companies to provide a 24-hour service had created a huge distortion in the market so that it was almost impossible for any taxi company to provide a satisfactory service. Mr Attrill said there would be no possible ill effects from granting an exemption to Gold and Black Taxis.

**Lisa Woods and Melanie Foot, Youth Council**

Lisa Woods said that the Youth Council fully supported a further trial of the after-midnight bus services in Wellington city. These services were helping young people to travel home safely.

Melanie Foot said that teenagers could not afford taxis and the bus services provided a cheap and affordable way for teenagers to travel home in the early hours of the morning.

**Tracey Thorpe, Youth Representative on the Wellington Safer Community Council**

Tracey Thorpe said that problems for teenagers wishing to travel home safely in the early hours of the morning would not go away. Teenagers also did not have the money to pay for taxis and there was also the problem of drunk drivers. Tracey Thorpe said that at a recent youth concert her members endeavoured to spread the word about the bus services after midnight by word of mouth. In the future there would also be a poster campaign and with the northern route to Newlands now covered Tracey Thorpe said she expected there would be greater support for the after-midnight service.

**Tony Moore, Police Youth Aid Section and Safer Community Council**

Constable Moore said that his organisation had a network of approximately between 80 and 90 youth groups and the late night bus services contributed to making Wellington a safer community. Constable Moore said his organisation fully supported the recommendation to further trial the late night service.

**Trevor Rigby, Chairperson, Rongotai College Board of Trustees**

Mr Rigby said he wished to give an older persons perspective and said the late night bus initiative was worthwhile and should be continued as it gave a peace of mind to parents.

Councillor McDavitt thanked all those who had made representations and said that Councillors now had a clear idea of the issues involved. Councillor McDavitt said it would now be an appropriate time to adjourn for morning tea.

Morning tea: 10.35am

Resumption: 10.50am

PT 23      **Confirmation of Minutes**

*Resolved* (Cr Shields/Cr Turver)

*That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 1998 be confirmed.*

*Resolved* (Cr McDavitt/Cr Shields)

*That the minutes of the special meeting held on 23 February 1999 be confirmed.*

## **Matter for Recommendation to Council**

PT 24      **Total Mobility**

**Report 99.104**

File: T/10/4/1

**Resolved to Recommend** (Cr Macaskill/Cr McQueen)

- (1) **That the Council accepts that adjustments to the eligibility criteria for Total Mobility need further debate locally and nationally with all relevant government and disability agencies and with other regional councils, in order to achieve a sustainable long term future for the scheme nationally and officers report back on progress to the next meeting of the Passenger Transport Committee.**
- (2) **That the current Wellington Region Total Mobility scheme be retained and funded for the remainder of the current financial year and for the 1999/2000 financial year, by adjusting the 1998/99 provision for Total Mobility Grants and Subsidies from \$840,000 to \$950,000, with a corresponding impact on the end of year transport reserve position, and by including in the draft 1999/2000 Annual Plan a sum of \$1,050,000 - an increase of \$210,000 over the current draft budget for 1999/2000 budget - with an impact of \$126,000 on the transport rate.**

## Matters for Committee Decision

PT 25      **Taxi Services: Request for Exemption from Requirement to Provide 24-hour Service**

**Report 99.106**

File: T/10/3/4

*Resolved*

*(Cr McDavitt/Cr Allen)*

*That in accordance with Section 4.4 of the Council's Regional Passenger Transport Plan, Gold and Black Taxis (1995) Ltd be declined an exemption from the requirement to provide a service 24 hours a day.*

*Resolved*

*(Cr Macaskill/Cr Turver)*

- (1) That the Regional Council contacts all taxi companies in the Wellington metropolitan area to seek their understanding and views on the policy to provide a 24-hour taxi service.*
- (2) That the Regional Council communicates to the Land Transport Safety Authority the views presented to Council in public participation and asks for the Authority's comments on how the circumstances can be improved in the Wellington metropolitan area.*

PT 26      **Wellington Urban Rail Contract 1999/2000**

**Report 99.102**

File: T/11/1/1

*Resolved*

*(Cr Buchanan/Cr Shields)*

*That Council enter into a further one year contract with Tranz Rail for the Wellington Suburban rail services.*

PT 27      **Late Night Buses, Wellington City**

**Report 99.105**

File: T/10/1/1

*Resolved*

*(Cr Bonner/Cr Turver)*

*That the Committee agrees to a further trial of late night (after midnight) bus services in Wellington City as proposed in the officers' report.*

PT 28      **The Relationship between the Committee and the Regional Land Transport Strategy**

**Report 99.103**

File: T/4/7/1

*Resolved*

*(Cr McDavitt/Cr Macaskill)*

*That the Committee consider the implications of the “Draft Regional Land Transport Strategy 1999-2004” at its 10 June 1999 meeting and if appropriate, make a submission on it.*

PT 29      **New Items on the Passenger Transport Infrastructure Priority Lists**

**Report 99.108**

File: T/8/1/1

Steve Harte, Manager, Roading and Transportation and Russell Black, Project Manager, Special Projects, Wellington City Council gave a presentation on the enhancement of the Wellington Railway Station/Central Business District Link.

*Resolved*

*(Cr Buchanan/Cr McDavitt)*

- (1) *That the Lyttelton Avenue Footbridge be ranked below the Porirua bus-rail interchange project on the major projects list.*
- (2) *That the package of projects that enhance the Wellington station to CBD link be ranked at the top of the minor projects list and they should be proceeded with as soon as funding becomes available.*

*Resolved*

*(Cr Macaskill/Cr Shields)*

*That the project for the enhancement of the Wellington Railway Station/Central Business District Link be examined for its compatibility with the proposals for the Gateway project, and that the item be considered at the next meeting of the Gateway Committee.*

**Access to Number Nine Platform**

The meeting agreed that further discussions should take place with the Taxi Federation in order to co-ordinate the service for passengers arriving and departing at Number Nine platform.

**Matters for Committee Decision**

PT 30      **Divisional Manager’s Report: March 1999**

**Report 99.101**

File: E/6/8/3

*Resolved*

*(Cr McDavitt/Cr Turver)*

*That the report be received.*

PT 31      **Public Transport Update: March 1999**

**Report 99.107**

File: T/10/1/1

*Resolved*

*(Cr McDavitt/Cr Turver)*

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

PT 32      **Current Status of Passenger Transport Infrastructure Projects**

**Report 99.97**

File: T/8/1/1

*Resolved*

*(Cr Allen/Cr Gibson)*

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

PT 33      **Questions**

There were no questions.

PT 34      **General**

**Recent Accident in the Hutt**

Councillor Allen said a recent accident in the Hutt had caused long delays to a large number of motorists. Councillor Allen questioned whether the inconvenience caused to motorists not involved in the accident had really been necessary. Councillor Allen said the consequent traffic delays had a negative impact on the local economy, and asked whether these delays had ever been costed.

Councillor McDavitt said Councillor Allen's concerns would be communicated to the Police and the Regional Land Transport Safety Authority who will be asked to report to the next meeting of the Regional Land Transport Committee.

The meeting closed at 12.25pm.

T J McDAVITT

Chairperson

Date

**Policy and Finance Committee – 8 April 1999**

*To be moved:*

**That the report of part of the meeting of the Passenger Transport Committee held 16 March 1999 Item PT 21 to PT 34 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.**