

Report 04.278

7 May 2004

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Passenger Transport Committee held in the Wellington Regional Council Chamber, The Regional Council Centre, 142 Wakefield Street, Wellington on Friday, 7 May 2004 at 9.30am

Present

Councillors Turver (Chairperson), Barr, Evans, Kirton, Laidlaw, McDavitt, and Thomas and Councillor Hutchings (WCC)

Officers Present

Messrs Cross, Darroch, Grace, Carolyn Lefebvre, Karen Richardson and Dr Watson

Public Business

Procedural Items

PT 174 Apologies

Resolved

(Cr Turver/Cr Thomas)

That the apologies from Councillors Aitken, Buchanan and Shields be confirmed.

PT 175 Public Participation

Mr Brent Efford, PT User Representative, Regional Land Transport Committee

Mr Efford criticised the lack of a regionwide strategy for public transport. The corridor-specific process falls well short of a coherent Passenger Transport Strategy.

A copy of Mr Efford's written representations were circulated.

Councillor Turver, in thanking Mr Efford for his appearance before the committee, noted that a regionwide strategy was included in the RLT Strategy document.

Mr J Ward, East by West Company

Mr Ward commented on various aspects of the East by West proposal for a trial commuter ferry service from Petone to Wellington with reference to Dr Watson's Report 04.219 for consideration at today's meeting. This included comments on how the ferry proposals rated in the Hutt Corridor Plan, whether it should be an expedited tender or contract extension and whether the increased services should be a trial service.

Following questions Councillor Turver thanked Mr Ward for his representations.

PT 176 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved

(Cr Turver/Cr Barr)

That the minutes of the meeting of 30 March 2004, Report 04.182, be confirmed.

Matter for Decision

PT 177 East by West Proposal for a Trial Commuter Ferry Service from Petone to Wellington

Report 04.219

File: T/11/10/01

Councillor Hutchings left at 10.30am.

Resolved

(Cr Evans/Cr Barr)

(1) *That the Committee notes that the Council's transport policy documents do not support a subsidised ferry service from Petone to Wellington.*

(2) *That the officers investigate and report back on improvement, including Petone, if a Harbour ferry service is to be trialled.*

- (3) *That the proposal includes an assurance that Harbour Master approval could be given and the proposed car parking (if any) to be dedicated to any such proposal.*
- (4) *That the officers report further on any other aspects they see are significant.*

Councillor Turver noted he had received a letter dated 5 May 2004 from Mr R Hart, Chief Executive, Hutt City Council, supporting a Petone to Wellington ferry trial. A copy had been distributed to members.

He also noted that the letter did not provide any supporting evidence.

Matters for Information

PT 178 Urban Passenger Rail

Report 04.225

File: CFO/43/01/01

Responding to a number of questions from Councillors Dr Watson said Mr Harris, Chief Executive, had arranged for a workshop on regional transport issues on 20 May. Councillors will also be briefed on progress with Tranz Metro negotiations on the Passenger Rail Business Plan and the draft contract. Further details will be published in the Bulletin.

Resolved

(Cr Kirton/Cr Barr)

That the report be received.

PT 179 Timing for Developing a System Identifier for the Public Transport Network in Wellington

Report 04.239

File: T/10/05/23

Karen Richardson said the timing programme for developing a system identifier for the public transport network in Wellington had improved since Report 04.239 had been published. Three additional parent brand names will be circulated to Councillors next week requesting early comment. These will be included in the mix for the market research and a workshop on 17 June 2004.

Resolved

(Cr McDavitt/Cr Thomas)

That the report be received.

PT 180 **Divisional Report****Report 04.227**

File: E/06/19/04

Western Corridor Plan Review

Dr Watson said he was in discussions with Transit New Zealand preparing draft Terms of Reference to progress the Western Corridor Plan within the context of the recently amended Transport Management Act. The Terms of Reference will require the approval of Transfund New Zealand. It has been agreed that Greater Wellington Regional Council will be the lead agency. Dr Watson said Mr Harris, Chief Executive, will report progress at the next Council meeting on 31 May 2004.

Dr Watson said there were two additional items as follows:

Letter dated 5 May 2004 from Hon Pete Hodgson Minister of Transport.

The Hon Pete Hodgson, Minister of Transport has invited Councillor Shields to begin participation in dialogue with central Government on transport issues in the Wellington region. The Minister has invited Councillor Shields, Chairperson of the Regional Council to meet on 10 May 2004 to discuss various rail, road and passenger transport issues pertaining to the Wellington region.

Dr Watson said that Mr Harris, Chief Executive, will circulate a copy of the letter in the Bulletin, confirming the workshop on 20 May 2004 will brief Councillors on progress following the meeting with the Minister of Transport on 10 May. The Council meeting on 31 May will include an item on transport issues.

Patronage Funding

Dr Watson said following an audit by Transfund New Zealand Council had now some patronage growth credits which have to be spent in the 2004 year. These credits will be netted off against a lower than budgeted passenger growth income and will be used to pay for other budgeted items such as bus timetables which are costing more than was anticipated in the current financial year. Dr Watson said there will be a meeting with Transfund New Zealand to determine how the remaining credits can be applied. Dr Watson said that he hoped some could be applied to the Carterton commuter car park so that it can be completed a year earlier than expected. The credits will also result in an increase in the end-of-year transport reserve.

Resolved

(Cr Turver/Cr Barr)

That the report be received.

Other Matters

PT 181 Questions

Parking in the Karori Tunnel

Responding to a question from Councillor Barr Councillor Turver said that the question of cars parked at the Karori Tunnel were a matter for the Wellington City Council and it will be discussed when the Quality Partnership Agreement Group next meets.

PT 182 General

Public Transport Strategy

Councillor Barr said he agreed with the comments of Mr Efford earlier in the meeting about the need to consider a Public Transport Strategy regionwide. Councillor McDavitt said such a policy was included in the Regional Land Transport Strategy and will be reviewed later in the year.

PT 183 Presentation by Alistair Page, Managing Director of Action Information Management Ltd on Real Time Passenger Transport Information

Mr Page gave a presentation focussing on the Company's experience with implementing real time passenger transport information in the United Kingdom.

The system produced continuous improvement in service delivery, improvement in customer services, analysis of real time projects and showed up the critical success factors for tracking and management systems. The presentation showed the importance of database management and how service monitoring could be improved.

Following questions Councillor Turver thanked Mr Page for an excellent presentation.

The meeting closed at 12.35pm.

Cr C TURVER
Chairperson