

Attachment 3: Consultation Plan for the proposed Regional Public Transport Plan 2011-2021

1. Introduction

This consultation plan aims to ensure a good level of awareness of the proposed Regional Public Transport Plan (PT Plan) and the opportunity to make submissions among stakeholders, interested parties, commuters and the general public. All individuals who are interested in the PT Plan will have an opportunity to learn about it and to make submissions.

The PT Plan is primarily an update and realignment of the existing Regional Passenger Transport Plan. The PT Plan focuses on delivering an effective and efficient integrated public transport network that gives effect to the Regional Land Transport Strategy 2010. The PT Plan sets the policy direction for public transport in the region and describes the public transport services Greater Wellington proposes to be provided. The PT Plan also includes consideration of other relevant implementation plans and projects, including the Wellington Public Transport Spine Study.

2. Results from prior consultations

The proposed PT Plan has undergone several stages of consultation. A Discussion Document was sent to stakeholders, including transport operators, local authorities and public transport advocates in March 2010. The Discussion Document was also sent to community boards and residents' associations and made available on Greater Wellington's website and feedback sought. A key message in the feedback on the Discussion Document was to delay preparation of the PT Plan until there was more certainty around expected legislative changes. Otherwise, feedback generally supported the approach set out in the Discussion Document – in particular the layered service approach.

A Preliminary Draft Plan was prepared and sent to stakeholders, including transport operators, local authorities and public transport advocates in March 2011. It was also sent to community boards and residents' associations but was not made available to the public generally. Again, feedback was supportive.

3. Consultation Legal Requirements

The consultation requirements for the PT Plan are set out in section 20 of the Public Transport Management Act 2008 (PTMA). When consulting, Greater Wellington must use the special consultative procedure under sections 83, 87 and 89 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The following parties were consulted while preparing the proposed PT Plan (as required by section 20(1) of the PTMA): Wellington Regional Transport Committee, New Zealand Transport Agency; public transport operators, Minister of Education, territorial authorities and the New Zealand Railways Corporation.

Section 20(2) of the PTMA requires Greater Wellington to forward a copy of the proposed PT Plan and to invite submissions from:

- Chief executive of the Ministry of Transport
- New Zealand Transport Agency
- Commissioner of Police
- Minister of Education
- Territorial authorities in the region
- Adjoining regional councils and territorial authorities
- Public transport operators
- District health boards in the region
- Affected approved public organisations in the region
- Accident Compensation Corporation
- Groups that represent the transport disadvantaged
- New Zealand Railways Corporation

Greater Wellington is also required to distribute the summary document as widely as reasonable practical. Given the costs of distribution and the technical nature of the PT Plan, this consultation process will not involve a mail-out to every household.

4. Objectives

There are two broad objectives for the consultation plan:

- To engage stakeholders and the wider community on the proposed PT Plan
- To facilitate awareness and understanding of the proposed PT Plan so interested parties can make submissions

This consultation plan aims to ensure a good level of awareness of the proposed PT Plan amongst stakeholders, including transport operators, local authorities, community boards, residents associations, public transport stakeholders and to a lesser extent the general public. It also seeks to provide the opportunity for those interested parties to provide formal input into the finalisation of the PT Plan 2011-21.

5. Target audiences

The key audiences are:

- Required parties identified in section 20(2) of the PTMA (refer legal requirements above)
- Community boards and residents associations
- Public transport advocates
- Other interested parties and stakeholders identified through consultation on the discussion document and preliminary draft PT Plan
- Residents and businesses of the region

6. Consultation Timeframe

The proposed consultation timetable is as follows:

Stages	Who	When
Approve proposed PT Plan for consultation and appoint Hearings Subcommittee	Economic Wellbeing Committee	15 June 2011
Print and distribute proposed PT Plan and/or Summary Document	Officers	27 June - 4 July 2011
Public notices in newspapers	Officers	27 June – 4 July May 2011
Consult Regional Transport Committee on proposed PT Plan	Officers and Regional Transport Committee	30 June 2011
Consultation period		4 – 29 July 2011
Consideration and hearing of submissions	Hearings Subcommittee & Officers	15 & 16 August 2011 23 August 2011 (backup)
Prepare Hearings Subcommittee report	Hearings Subcommittee & Officers	22-25 August 2011
Hearings Committee report back to Economic Wellbeing Committee	Economic Wellbeing Committee	8 September
Adopt final PT Plan	Council	28 September 2011

7. Key messages

The following are the key messages:

- Greater Wellington wants to achieve an effective and efficient integrated public transport network that contributes to improved economic growth and productivity
- The main focus of the PT Plan is to contribute to improved economic growth and productivity while also providing for the social needs of the community
- The PT Plan is based on a layered service approach to delivering an effective and efficient integrated public transport network
- Let us know what you think of the proposed PT Plan

8. Consultation elements

The consultation will involve a submission process. Written and online submissions will be invited, with submitters then being given the opportunity to present their submissions orally. In order to provide the opportunity to submit the following communications tools will be used.

8.1 Direct communication with key parties and stakeholders

The external audiences we will communicate directly with are the required parties identified in section 20(2) of the PTMA and other prior identified interested parties, including community boards, residents associations and public transport advocates.

All parties identified in section 20(2) of the PTAP will be mailed a full copy of the proposed RLTS along with the Summary Document and covering letter.

Greater Wellington has a database of other interested parties, including community boards, residents associations and public transport advocates who will receive a covering letter and Summary Document. The letter will advise how to obtain a full copy of the proposed PT Plan.

8.2 Public notices

Public notices advising of the submission process will be placed in the Dominion Post, Wairarapa Times Age and regional community newspapers.

8.3 Web pages

The PT Plan page on Greater Wellington's website will be updated and links provided to the proposed PT Plan and Summary Document and an online submission form. There will also be a story and link on the Metlink website and territorial authorities will also be asked to provide a link on their websites.

8.4 Metlink News

An item about the proposed PT Plan will be included in the June issue of Metlink News.

8.5 Social media

Twitter and Facebook can both be used to let people know about the proposed PT Plan and how they can make a submission.

8.6 Media releases

Media releases will be issued when consultation begins and then before the hearings get under way.

9. Public access to the consultation documents

The proposed PT Plan and Summary Document will be available from the offices of Greater Wellington, selected public libraries throughout the region and any other relevant locations.

10. Meeting with interested groups

Representatives from Greater Wellington will be available to talk with any interested individuals or groups. An offer will be extended to local authorities for a presentation at council meetings if desirable.