

Confirmed Public minutes of the Future Fares Direction Hearing Subcommittee meeting on Wednesday 3 August 2022 and Thursday 4 August 2022

Wednesday 3 August 2022

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 9.30am.

Members Present

Councillor Blakeley (Chair)
Councillor Brash
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Lamason
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ponter

Councillor Ponter participated at the meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams, and counted for the purpose of quorum in accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair invited Councillor Lee to open the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

There were no apologies.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Process for Considering Feedback on the Future Fares Direction – Report 22.320

Alex Smith, Senior Democratic Services Advisor, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Lee

That the Subcommittee:

- 1 Agrees to the hearing process set out in this report.
- 2 Accepts the late feedback received on the Future Fares Direction.

The motion was **carried**.

4 Analysis of Submissions on the Future Fares Direction – Report 22.315

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Brash

That the Subcommittee:

- 1 Considers the submissions on the Future Fares Direction 2022 (Attachment 1), together with the findings, analysis, and summary of submissions completed by Global Research (Attachment 2) and with the officer comments and recommendations set out in this report.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Hearing of submissions

A schedule of the hearing of submissions was tabled.

Submitters were scheduled in half hour blocks and heard in the following order:

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
1	FF005	Chris Clarke – Age Concern Wairarapa
2	HYS51	Adam Manihera
3	HYS469	Nick Ruane
4	HYS76	Jeremy Parry-Thompson
5	HYS149	Nikau Wi Neera
6	HYS626	Tony Randle
7	HYS699 and FF012	Raewyn Hailes – CCS Disability Action Wellington

The meeting adjourned at 11am and resumed at 11.15am.

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
8	HYS444	Marion Leighton

The Chair advised that the meeting would adjourn and reconvene at 9.30am on Thursday 4 August 2022. The meeting adjourned at 11.23am.

Thursday 4 August 2022

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 9.30am.

Members Present

Councillor Blakeley (Chair)
Councillor Brash
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Lamason
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ponter

Councillor Ponter participated at the meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams, and counted for the purpose of quorum in accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

6 Apologies

There were no apologies.

7 Hearing of submissions (continued)

An updated timetable of oral submissions was circulated.

Submitters were scheduled in half hour blocks and heard in the following order:

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
9	FF002	Paula Warren
10	HYS106	Daniel Spector
11	HYS294	Charissa Bartlett – read by Cr Nash
12	HYS653	Yadana Saw

The Subcommittee discussed its approach to deliberations and asked questions of officers.

The meeting adjourned at 10.32am and resumed at 10.56am.

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
13	HYS437	Nick Bell

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
14	FF015	Mika Hervel, Wesley Gyles-Bedford, Khushboo Singh and Jack Chapman – Pōneke Collective
15	FF009 and FF007	Lisa Matthews – Carterton and South Wairarapa District Councils

The meeting adjourned at 12.21pm and resumed at 12.53pm.

8 Analysis of Submissions on the Future Fares Direction – Report 22.315

The Subcommittee undertook its deliberations.

Samantha Gain, General Manager Metlink, Tim Shackleton, Manager, Commercial, Strategy and Investment and Emmet McElhatton, Manager, Policy, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Lee

That the Subcommittee:

- 2 Following consideration of the submissions on the Future Fares Direction 2022, and relevant officer advice, additions and amendments to the Future Fares Direction 2022 as agreed by this Subcommittee, as outlined below:
 - a Notes the overwhelming support for Council's adoption of the government's Community Services Card half-price fares initiative.
 - b Notes that the Ministry of Transport has explicitly excluded the Total Mobility scheme from the half-price fares initiative.
 - c Requests that Council advocates to central government that the Community Services Card half price fares initiative be extended to include the Total Mobility scheme.
 - d Requests that officers conduct further modelling, options analysis and discussions with the Ministry of Transport on potential additional support for Total Mobility for future Council decision-making, including investigating the potential for public transport authorities to procure their own fleets of total mobility vehicles to increase capacity, and report back to the Transport Committee.
 - e Recommends that Council move from a 25% to a 50% off-peak discount with subsequent Net Revenue loss of \$5 million (with a modest cost offset in the mid-long term through reducing peak service capacity requirements), subject to Council being provided further advice regarding the funding and capacity implications of a 50% discount.
 - f Recommends that Council amend the current Regional Public Transport Plan definition of off-peak for buses to "weekdays before 7 am, between

9 am and 3 pm and after 6.30 pm and all-day weekends and public holidays”.

- g Requests that officers conduct further modelling to determine whether this pre-7 am off-peak discount be applied to the rail network including the Wairarapa Line (all peak services from Masterton depart prior to 7 am. See paragraphs 102 to 113).
- h Recommends the adoption of cumulative off-peak discounts for all concession holders.
- i Notes that officers will work with Snapper to identify implementation timings, costs and simplicity report options for Council decision as part of the annual fares review process.
- j Recommends that Council introduce a policy that allows children to travel free on non-premium services, buses and trains on weekends and public holidays, subject to Council being provided further advice regarding the funding implications of this decision.
- k Recommends that Metlink harbour ferry services and the Airport Express be excluded from the free child travel on weekends and public holidays policy.
- l Notes that parents and caregivers of children with disabilities can travel free under existing policy and that there is a need to convey this information more clearly.
- m Requests that officers clarify the policy, and address any anomalies, with respect to parents and caregivers travelling with persons with disabilities.
- n Recommends that Metlink move toward a fare capping approach, in the context of account-based ticketing in the National Ticketing Solution.
- o Recommends an initial fare capping discount of 35 percent on a daily and weekly basis.
- p Recommends that Council support the introduction of new targeted fares products for group, visitor, family and event travel across the Region.
- q Recommends that Council support the emerging work programme with WellingtonNZ, with regard to event travel across the Region.
- r Requests that officers update the Transport Committee regarding progressing the work programme with WellingtonNZ.
- s Recommends that Council introduce a distance based Integrated Fare Structure.
- t Requests that officers conduct further modelling and options analysis on potential changes to the Wairarapa Line for off-peak users, including Super Gold Card users for future Council decision making.
- u Notes the roll out of free Snapper Cards for Community Connect scheme.

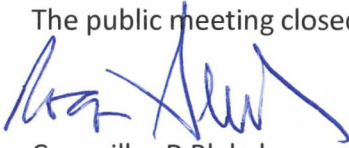
- v Notes that this fare strategy review has taken place in the context of uncertainty in relation to patronage as a result of COVID-19.
- w Notes that this fare strategy review has taken place in the context of legislative and central government policy reform, including in relation to fare free, fare discount initiatives and Public Transport Operating Model (PTOM) reforms.
- x Notes that this fare strategy review has taken place in the context of constraints related to funding, technology, network capacity and the timing of major projects such as the National Ticketing Solution, funding and procurement of regional rail services.

The motion was **carried**.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee Chair invited Councillor Lee to close the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The public meeting closed at 2.41pm.



Councillor R Blakeley

Chair

Date:

25/8/22