

Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Transport Committee meeting on 10 June 2025.

Report 25.181

Public minutes of the Transport Committee – Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-35 Hearing on 6 and 7 May 2025

Tuesday 6 May 2025

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 9.36am

Members Present

Councillor Nash (Chair)

Councillor Woolf (Deputy Chair) (from 9.36am until 10.59am, and from 11.20am until 11.27am)

Councillor Bassett

Councillor Connelly

Councillor Duthie

Councillor Gaylor

Councillor Laban

Councillor Lee (from 9.36am until 11.17am, and from 11.49am until 12.45pm)

Councillor Ponter (from 9.36am until 11.27am, and from 11.56am until 12.03pm, and from 12.20pm)

Councillor Staples (from 9.36am until 12.02pm, and from 1.44pm)

Andrew Lensen

Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair opened the hearing with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Gaylor / Cr Connelly

That the Committee accepts the apologies for absence from Councillors Kirk-Burnnand, Ropata and Saw, and for early departure from Councillors Lee and Woolf.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Process for the Hearing of Submissions and Feedback – Report 25.165

Moved: Cr Bassett / Cr Gaylor

That the Committee:

- 1 Agrees to the hearing process as set out in this report.
- 2 Accepts the late submission received on the draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-35

The motion was **carried**.

The hearing adjourned at 9.39am and resumed at 10.08am.

4 Hearing of oral presentations

A timetable of oral presentations was circulated.

Submitters were heard in the following order:

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
1	RPTP028	Roger Boulter (via Teams)
2	RPTP048	Averil Bramley, Mount Victoria Residents' Association
3	RPTP863	Alice Miller (via Teams)
4	RPTP829	Chris Norton
5	RPTP012	Diana Ponsford and Martin Halliday, Kāpiti Health Advisory Board
6	RPTP082	Andrew Langton
7	RPTP002	Blake Forbes and Nick Ruane
8	RPTP053	Delaney Myers, Bus and Coach Association

Councillor Woolf left the hearing at 10.59am during the speaking time of speakers 7, returned at 11.20am during speaker 8, and left at 11.27am and did not return.

Councillor Lee left the hearing at 11.17am during the speaking time of speakers 7 and returned at 11.49am.

The hearing adjourned at 11.27am and resumed at 11.49am.

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
9	RPTP035	Stephen Blyth and Asher Goldman, Low Carbon Kāpiti
10	RPTP014	Alan Smith
11	RPTP015	Arunan Noble and Jack Graham, Better Buses Ōwhiro Bay
12	RPTP041	David Smith
13	RPTP771	Pete Gent

Councillor Ponter left the meeting at 11.27am and returned at 11.56am during the speaking time of speakers 9.

Councillor Staples left the meeting at 12.02pm during the speaking time of speakers 9 and returned at 1.44pm.

Councillor Ponter left the hearing at 12.03pm during the speaking time of speakers 9 and returned at 12.20pm during the speaking time of speaker 12.

Councillor Lee left at 12.45pm and did not return.

The hearing adjourned at 12.45pm and resumed at 1.44pm.

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
14	RPTP030	Mayor Janet Holborow (via Teams), Kāpiti Coast District Council
15	RPTP281	Fiona Beals
16	RPTP052	Thomas Bryan, Blind Citizens New Zealand
17	RPTP827	Stewart Sexton

The Committee Chair advised that the hearing would adjourn and reconvene at 10.30am on Wednesday 7 May 2025.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee Chair adjourned the hearing with a karakia whakamutunga.

The hearing adjourned at 2.41pm.

Wednesday 7 May 2025

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 10.32am

Members Present

Councillor Nash (Chair)
Councillor Bassett
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Duthie
Councillor Gaylor
Councillor Laban (until 3.02pm)
Councillor Lee
Councillor Ponter (until 12.16pm and from 1.39pm to 3.01pm)
Councillor Staples

Andrew Lensen (from 11.33am)

Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

5 Apologies

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Gaylor

That the Committee accepts the apology for absence from Councillors Kirk-Burnnand, Ropata, Saw and Woolf, and the apology for lateness from Andrew Lensen.

The motion was **carried**.

6 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

7 Hearing of oral presentations

A timetable of oral presentations was circulated.

Submitters were heard in the following order:

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation

19	RPTP051	Peri Zee
20	RPTP046	Evzen Novak
21	RPTP705	Liz Perno
22	RPTP022	Kat Thorstrand-Mitchell
23	RPTP054	Susan Phillip, Lisa Poynton and Peri Zee, Horowhenua District Council

Andrew Lensen arrived at 11.33am during the final submitter.

The meeting adjourned at 11.34am and resumed at 11.55am. Councillor Lee and Andrew Lensen were not present when the meeting resumed.

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
24	RPTP916	Lance Pratley
25	RPTP832	Hayes Stackhouse
26	RPTP050	Carly Dove-Mcfalls & Simeon Collier-foley, Generation Zero Wellington
27	RPTP029	Councillor Randle, Councillor Free and Sean Audain (Via Teams), Wellington City Council

Councillor Lee returned from the adjournment at 11.56am.

Andrew Lensen returned from the adjournment at 11.56am.

The meeting adjourned at 12.42pm and resumed at 1.34pm. Councillor Ponter was not present when the meeting resumed.

8 Analysis of Submissions to the Draft Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-35

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Gaylor

That the Committee:

- 1 Considers the submissions on the draft Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2025 - including the summary of submissions received on the draft Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan - Summary and analysis of submissions on Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2025 – Global Research (Attachment 1) - together with the officer comments (set out in this report) in determining its findings and recommendations to Council.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Ponter returned to the meeting at 1.39pm, during the introduction of the above motion.

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr Gaylor

That the Committee:

- 2 Requests that responsible officers work with the Committee Chair to make editorial changes to the draft RPTP in line with Committee deliberations prior to the final RPTP being presented to Council for adoption.

The motion was **carried**.

Moved: Cr Laban / Cr Lee

That the Committee:

- 3 Recommends that Council retains the activities and policies outlined in the draft RPTP as they will contribute to a public transport network that is efficient, equitable, accessible and low carbon.

The motion was **carried**.

Moved: Cr Laban / Cr Bassett

That the Committee:

- 4 Recommends that the work programme to implement a network of high-frequency bus corridors in the Wellington Region is retained.

The motion was **carried**.

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Connelly

That the Committee:

- 5 Requests that officers continue to align the timing of the park and ride demand management workstream with integrated ticketing and to consider rail patronage stabilisation and introduction of congestion charging.

The motion was **carried**.

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr Connelly

That the Committee:

- 6 Recommends that the work programme to redevelop Waterloo Station be retained noting further direction and decisions will be sought from Council on 21 August 2025.

The motion was **carried**.

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Staples

That the Committee:

- 7 Recommends to Council that it initiate a 6-month off peak trial on public transport based off the recent Auckland Transport trial.

The motion was put, and a division vote was called:

Votes for the motion were: Councillors Gaylor, Lee, Ponter, and Staples

Votes against the motion were: Councillors Bassett, Connelly, Duthie, Laban and Nash

The motion was **lost** by 5 votes to 4.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Duthie

That Committee:

- 7 Recommends that the current rules for animals travelling on public transport services are retained without further liberalisation.

The motion was put, and a division vote was called:

Votes for the motion were: Councillors Bassett, Connelly, Duthie, Gaylor, Laban and Nash

Votes against the motion were: Councillors Lee, Ponter, and Staples

The motion was **carried** by 6 votes to 3.

Moved: Cr Lee / Cr Laban

That the Committee:

- 8 Recommends that officers investigate opportunities to accelerate the phase out of cash payments prior to the introduction of integrated electronic ticketing including through promotions to make Snapper usage more affordable and accessible.

The motion was **carried**.

The meeting adjourned at 2.27pm and resumed at 2.33pm.

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Gaylor

That the Committee:

- 9 Recommends that Metlink pursues improvements to public transport bus services in the following areas, subject to available funding, and that these improvements are included in the final RPTP for adoption by Council:
- a Wainuiomata – increased frequency of services and better connections to Hutt Hospital – in advance of a review of the wider Hutt City network in 2026
 - b Waikanae-Ōtaki-Levin (inter-regional services) – route extension/direction changes and increased frequency
 - c Porirua – extending services into Aotea

- d Tawa – extending service into Grenada North and increased frequency.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Ponter left the meeting at 3.01pm during the debate on the above motion and did not return.

Councillor Laban left the meeting at 3.02pm during the debate on the above motion and did not return.

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Connelly

That the Committee:

- 10 Acknowledges and shares the immense frustration surrounding rail performance to and from the Wairarapa and reaffirms the Committee's commitment to taking urgent action with regard to operation of the services and maintenance and renewal of the infrastructure to provide better services and better value for money to the community.

The motion was **carried**.

Moved Cr Lee / Cr Nash

That the Committee:

- 11 Recommends the following actions associated with public transport services to and from Ōwhiro Bay:
 - a Implement changes already proposed for Ōwhiro Bay (two additional morning and afternoon trips to improve access to Wellington hospital)
 - b Investigate extending the #1 and #7 services to Ōwhiro Bay
 - c Investigate changes to service scheduling to Ōwhiro Bay to facilitate school drop-off.

The motion was **carried**.

Moved Cr Duthie / Cr Lee

That the Committee:

- 12 Recommends officers investigate the following accessibility measures:
 - a Options for remedial action on wharfs and ferry for accessibility
 - b Assess feasibility of converting #81 services to 85x service
 - c Carry out a review/audit of all printed timetables at bus stops
 - d Investigate additional accessibility measures for bus stops including potential audio announcements
 - e Review progress of previous Council action on council owned mobility vehicles and report back to Committee.

The motion was **carried**.

- 13 Recommends officers action the following accessibility measures:
- a Establish fixed stops for new Tawa service
 - b Take action to ensure On Board Announcements on bus are delivered to Council expectations
 - c Ensure accessibility requirements are included in standards for any new or refurbished ferry infrastructure
 - d Review language used in RPTP relating to disabled passengers to remove 'deficit framing' included in the draft.

The motion was **carried**.

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr Staples

That the Committee:

- 14 Recommends that a new focus area is included in the RPTP relating to "connections protection", in particular:
- a bus to bus and
 - b bus to rail
 - c better shelter, better connections, bus waiting for train.

The motion was **carried**.

Moved: Cr Gaylor / Cr Duthie

That the Committee:

- 15 Notes NZTA's feedback on the draft RPTP and that officers will work to address most of the points raised by NZTA in the version of the RPTP that will be presented to Council at its meeting on Thursday 26 June 2025.
- 16 Notes Wellington City Council's desire for Greater Wellington to reconsider our fare zones for Wellington City.
- 17 Notes that the requests made by Kāpiti Coast District Council will need to be carefully considered against the funding available to provide new services.
- 18 Requests that content from the Regional Strategic Rail Plan relevant to Kāpiti transport be added to the final RPTP.
- 19 Notes the feedback from Upper Hutt City Council and approves officers rewording the Strategic Events policy in the final RPTP to make it clear Metlink considers events at regional significant venues like Brewtown for event support.
- 20 Notes the feedback in the submission from Masterton District Council.
- 21 Notes the feedback in the submission from Horizons Regional Council.

- 22 Recommends work with Horizons Regional Council and Horowhenua District Council continues on improvements for rail.
- 23 Requests the Committee Chair to write to territorial authorities on the outcome of the Committee's deliberations on public submissions on the RPTP.
- 24 Notes Bus and Coach Association's and Kinetic's submissions.
- 25 Notes Transdev's submission.

The motion was **carried**.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Lee

That the Committee:

- 26 Requests officers undertake a programme:
 - a To determine the feasibility of modernising and making more accessible all stations on the Metlink network
 - b Rationalise stations where closely spaced or with low patronage use
 - c Assess benefits of new stations:
 - i. North of Upper Hutt CBD
 - ii. To serve Queen Elizabeth Park
 - iii. North of Paraparaumu
 - d A loop to connect Melling and Hutt Valley Line (as per KiwiRail plan)
 - e Moving current Levin station
 - f North-South Junction double-tracking
 - g North of Waikanae double tracking.

The motion was **carried**.

Moved: Cr Bassett / Cr Staples

That the Committee:

- 27 Requests officers work with territorial authorities to identify key roading works that are needed to support urban growth and people movement in the region.
- 28 Recommends that officers investigate the current provision of community bus services for health and report back to the Committee on opportunities to support the provision of health-related transport.

The motion was **carried**.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee Chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The meeting closed at 3.49pm

Councillor T Nash

Chair



Date:

10 June 2025