



MINUTES

**Tauranga Public Transport Joint
Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, 12 April 2022

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**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL
TAURANGA PUBLIC TRANSPORT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE GROUND FLOOR MEETING ROOM 1, 306 CAMERON ROAD, TAURANGA
ON TUESDAY, 12 APRIL 2022 AT 3PM**

PRESENT: Commission Chair Anne Tolley, Cr Andrew von Dadelszen, Commissioner Stephen Selwood, Cr Paula Thompson

IN ATTENDANCE: Tauranga City Council

Nic Johansson (General Manager: Infrastructure), Brendan Bisley (Director of Transport), Alistair Talbot (Team Leader: Transport Strategy & Planning), Mark Burgess (Manager: Transport Infrastructure Outcomes), Robyn Garrett (Team Leader: Committee Support), Anahera Dinsdale (Committee Advisor)

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Namouta Poutasi (General Manager Strategy and Science), James Llewellyn (Transport & Urban Planning Manager), Fiona McTavish (Chief Executive), Oliver Haycock (Team Leader - Service Planning and Project Delivery - Transport & Urban Planning)

1 OPENING KARAKIA

Ms Namouta Poutasi opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

Nil

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

4 ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ITEMS

4.1 Acceptance of late items

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TPT2/22/1

Moved: Commissioner Stephen Selwood

Seconded: Cr Paula Thompson

That the late report "The Wednesday Challenge - Update following March meeting" be accepted and considered at this meeting.

CARRIED

5 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE OPEN

Nil

6 CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

CHANGE THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TPT2/22/2

Moved: Cr Paula Thompson

Seconded: Commissioner Stephen Selwood

That the Tauranga Public Transport Joint Committee:

Amends the order of business so Business items 2 and 5 move into Public Excluded for reasons of commercial sensitivity.

CARRIED

7 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

8 DEPUTATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS

8.1 Mr Joseph Macfarlane - Director, Tauranga Campus Operations, University of Waikato

Key points

- The University of Waikato Tauranga Campus had doubled numbers of enrolment since opening with about 1200 students in 2022.
- Worked in partnership with both Tauranga City Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council and aspired to not only be a Tauranga city campus but a wider Bay of Plenty region campus. Noted ongoing support from both authorities.
- Outlined the plan for the Tauranga Tertiary Precinct and an expanded footprint for the university.
- Although there was potential to expand and grow, there was a need to get the access right to enable expansion and growth. Consideration should be given to bus pick up and drop off points, safety of students and good access for visitors such as school visits. Also needed to consider access for student accommodation provision.
- Excited about the Civic Centre redevelopment taking place a block over from the University of Waikato campus.
- Noted the free bus service for students from further out in the region e.g. Whakatane and Rotorua as a joint project between University of Waikato and Toi Ohomai to subsidise cost.
- Would have liked university students to also get benefits from concessions on local buses.
- University of Waikato had worked alongside Tauranga City Council staff on various urban design projects.

In response to questions

- Noted it was not compulsory to have Bee cards to receive a tertiary concession. Would fully support integration with the Bee card system. Bee cards were held at reception on campus and use was promoted. Lacked ability to assess patronage and receive data of how many students were using the bus service.
- For 2022 had less students apply from Tauranga and more students from outside the Bay of Plenty. Accommodation was only offered for the first time in 2022. The previous three years, students were mainly from Tauranga and within the Bay of Plenty.
- The University of Waikato had invested in storage for scooters and bikes and was trying to promote multi-modal student travel to the campus. Unsure if there was data available on ways that students travelled to the campus; student motivation was important to understand to be able to work in an integrated way with the future city centre development.

- Covid had been an issue with international student enrolments but it was intended that there would be an international student presence. 5000 full time equivalent students was the aspirational target for student numbers in five years.
- Seek student voice regarding transport choices to the campus.

Chairperson Tolley thanked Mr Macfarlane for his informative presentation.

Attachments

- 1 Presentation - University of Waikato Tauranga Campus

9 BUSINESS

9.1 Verbal updates on various topics

The Chairperson noted that the Committee should not be afraid of having verbal updates to keep both teams linked, staff and governance. Joint reports would be appreciated on key issues, written by both Tauranga City Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council staff.

(1) Patronage changes on Papamoa routes

Oliver Haycock, Team Leader - Service Planning and Project Delivery - Transport & Urban Planning, BOPRC.

Key points

- Phase 1 refresh launched Oct/Nov last year, included Route 2 which was a direct service from Papamoa to the CBD.
- Patronage figures were impacted by Delta.
- 540 boardings pre-refresh; in weeks after observed 527 boardings, encouraging in context of Covid.
- 204 transfers at Bayfair - had dropped by about half since the introduction of the direct route.

In response to questions

- Patronage was impacted by Covid, Christmas and holidays, return to school. It was hard to disentangle patronage on the changed routes from these effects.
- Anecdotally feedback had been very positive.
- Student data was being separated out to get better pictures of both adult and student patronage as students received a free service. The data would be circulated when available.
- Had noticed patronage starting to recover in the past two or three weeks, hoped it would be the start of the move towards the new normal. Also running a reduced timetable due to staff shortages; when back to full service better frequency would also impact on patronage. Staff would come back to the Committee in October with updated data – this would be a year since the route changes so should give a fuller picture.
- Unsure if it was possible to access gender demographic information from Beecard data as could be problematic legally.
- The route change was the first significant change from the hub and spoke approach.

Discussion points raised

- Looked at going out to the public post-election with Phase 2 proposals for the network. Would like to make some changes in particular parts of Tauranga to improve service but would need stakeholders involved.

(2) Half price bus fares

James Llewellyn, Transport & Urban Planning Manager, BOPRC

Key points

- The half price bus fare initiative was funded by central government and started on 1 April 2022. A lot of work was needed to ensure the correct fare was charged but seemed it had been implemented well.
- Very preliminary data for 1 April was approximately a 14% indicative increase in patronage.

In response to questions

- Students ride the bus free on the weekend as well.
- Decision not to move to full free fares at this stage and the subsidy was only dollar for dollar.
- Many views on whether price made a difference to people's choice for using public transport. Would need the data to inform decision making.

(3) Bus stop design options

Nic Johansson - General Manager: Infrastructure, TCC

Key points

- Mr Wassung's bus stop options were not certified or approved. Had asked Mr Wassung to contact some of Tauranga City Council's suppliers to discuss possible design options.
- Need to understand low cost versus high-cost options and also the cost/benefits of those options to be able to make an informed recommendation to achieve the best outcome on bus shelters.
- 160 shelter sites worked on and about 25 unopposed. Intent to go ahead with the unopposed sites to get the shelters installed efficiently; there was a possibility to change to a "funkier" design.
- There were about six sites along Cameron Road in the Stage 1 upgrade that could put up something different e.g. green living roof.

In response to questions

- Digital bus time boards were installed along Cameron Road so users could see when the next bus would arrive. Received good feedback on where these were along Cameron Road.
- More digital boards were planned to be installed but technology shift was towards bus users using phone apps to track real-time bus movements. Digital boards were more useful for older bus users.
- Access to bus stops also important and some new design features could be incorporated to enhance accessibility.
- Reasons for opposition from residents were that bus stops attracted noise and rowdiness, visual concerns if interrupting a view and some concern about people waiting outside residents' houses. Some aspect of Nimbyism as well.

10 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

11 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TPT2/22/3**

Moved: Cr Paula Thompson

Seconded: Commissioner Stephen Selwood

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
11.1 - The Wednesday Challenge - Update following March meeting	s7(2)(i) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
11.2 – Bayfair Interchange	s7(2)(h) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(i) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
11.3 – Temporary City Centre	s7(2)(h) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(i) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7

CARRIED

12 CLOSING KARAKIA

Ms Namouta Poutasi closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 5:00pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Tauranga Public Transport Joint Committee meeting held on 22 June 2022.

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CHAIRPERSON