



Report 07.594
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Committee Passenger Transport Committee
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Sponsorship of the Metlink City Safari

1. Purpose

To provide an overview of our sponsorship of the Metlink City Safari prior to a presentation at the Committee Meeting.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

The Metlink City Safari is an orienteering team event that is organised by Orienteering Hutt Valley, an amateur organisation, sponsored by Greater Wellington Regional Council and supported by the main bus and train operators in the region.

The event is unique because it uses public transport as a means for participants to get to control points within a given area, over either a 3 or 6 hour period. Each control point has a score and the team that gains the highest score in the allowed time wins.

The event has been running annually since 2004. The first two events were held in the Hutt Valley and last two in Wellington City.

GWRC has sponsored the event for the last three years because of the benefits of being associated with an event of this type. The event encourages the use of public transport by demonstrating that it is easy to get around Wellington by public transport, it is enjoyable and connections work well.

The majority of competitors are family groups who may not use public transport, particularly at the weekend. In addition, the publicity around the

event, which reaches a wide audience, creates positive news stories about public transport.

Orienteering Hutt Valley plans and organises the event and manages operations on the day. Our involvement is restricted to providing limited financial assistance to promote the event. This year this included calling the event the *Metlink City Safari*

4. Metlink City Safari 2007

Metlink City Safari 2007 was held on Sunday 20 May. The event started and finished at Frank Kitts Park on the Wellington waterfront and covered the Wellington City area. It was very successful day, despite the bad weather, with a record number of people taking part – 370 participants, a 37% increase on the previous year.

Each team had a Metlink vest, which created good publicity on the day and there were positive press articles following the event.

5. Conclusion

We have agreed to continue our limited financial support of the Metlink City Safari in 2008 as the event helps to create positive news stories about public transport and demonstrates to potential new public transport users that there is a good service on weekends.

Our support will remain restricted to helping to promote the event. The event is very well organised by Orienteering Hutt Valley and we do not have the financial or staff resources to take on further responsibility.

We have agreed that the event will continue to be called the *Metlink City Safari*.

Further details about the event and our involvement will be provided during the presentation

6. Communication

There will be a presentation at the Passenger Transport Committee meeting.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

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