



Report 10.470
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Committee Transport & Access Committee
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Service review update - September 2010

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on the status of current service reviews.

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. Porirua bus service review

This review remains on hold pending confirmation of changes to rail timetables and the development of the new Public Transport Operating Model.

4. Wellington City public transport review

Strategic planning is continuing with the refinement of service change options for the study area network.

Officers are currently developing the 'possible' network for the study area using best practice network design principles, based on feedback from the initial consultation stage and the focus group programme. As Councillors will recall, the focus group programme tested options with fifteen focus groups and provided valuable insight into public preferences and priorities. The network will then be refined using the soon-to-be-ready public transport model.

4.1 Kilbirnie Town Centre

Officers have participated in the development of Wellington City Council's Kilbirnie Town Centre Plan over the last year. The Plan is aimed at revitalising the town centre and creating an attractive, vibrant, people-friendly and prosperous area. The draft Plan identified the improvement of public transport infrastructure as an "opportunity".

Kilbirnie is a key location in the Wellington bus network. It is one of two sub-regional centres in Wellington City (the other is Johnsonville) and it is an important anchor at the southern end of Wellington City's growth spine. The suburb is well-served by public transport, with up to 400 buses a weekday on the main routes. However, town centre bus stop location and passenger facilities are poor, having evolved over time without reference to any master plan.

The parallel development of the Town Centre Plan and Greater Wellington's own Review provides an opportunity to address the issues. Greater Wellington has therefore looked at the opportunities to enhance facilities in the town centre, and identified three options for changes to bus stop location and infrastructure that will greatly enhance both passenger experience and the efficiency of operations. These will be considered further with Wellington City Council and Go Wellington over the next few months.

A report on the issues and options is available to Councillors on request.

5. Rail timetable review

Greater Wellington and KiwiRail are in the final stages of confirming the new rail timetables, planned for implementation in early 2011. We expect these to be approved by the joint Greater Wellington / KiwiRail Timetable Committee in September. Work on finalising connecting bus timetables will follow on once the rail timetables are agreed.

6. Otaki & Waikanae bus service review

A review of Otaki and Waikanae bus services, to ensure that they are meeting the needs of existing users and take advantage of the extension of suburban rail services to Waikanae, will commence shortly. Key stakeholders including the bus operators, bus users, Kapiti Coast District Council and other interested parties will be consulted as part of the process. It is expected that it will be completed by the end of the year.

7. Operational reviews

7.1 Routes 160 & 170 (Wainuiomata)

Changes to Route 160 and Route 170 bus services will be implemented on Sunday 24 October 2010. These changes are designed to correct problems that resulted from a previous set of changes in February of this year. The new changes are based on detailed monitoring of running times to ensure that the new timetable will be effective. One of the main issues has been missed train connections and lateness, due to insufficient timetabled running times.

The nature of the changes requires a change to drivers' shifts and rosters. This necessitates consultation with driver representatives and then a minimum period of six weeks notice of a change in roster. The consultation period is approximately two weeks, and has commenced.

The October changes will be very closely monitored, from the first week of operation, through a combination of physical roadside monitoring and operator reporting.

8. Communication

Wainuiomata service changes will be advertised and the timetables updated.

9. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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