
Minutes of a meeting of the Nelson City Council to hear and consider submissions to the draft Regional Public Transport Plan

Held in the Council Chamber, Civic House, Trafalgar Street, Nelson

On Thursday 25 August 2011, commencing at 9.02am

Present: Councillors I Barker (Chairperson), G Collingwood, R Copeland, P Matheson, J Rackley, D Shaw and M Ward

In Attendance: Acting Chief Executive (A Louverdis), Executive Manager Strategy and Planning (M Schruer), Manager Strategic Response (C Ward), Policy Adviser (Y Gwyn) and Administration Adviser (L Laird)

Apologies: His Worship the Mayor A Miccio, Councillors A Boswijk (Deputy Mayor), K Fulton, P Rainey and R Reese

1. Introduction

Councillor Barker opened the meeting and said according to standing orders 2.3.1 he had been elected to chair the meeting.

2. Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Collingwood declared an interest with the Hub, National Council of Women, Grey Power and mentioned that she was a member of the Regional Transport Committee.

Councillor Barker declared an interest with Greypower and said that he held a Gold Card.

Councillor Shaw declared an interest with the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board.

3. Hearing Submissions

Document No. 1143370

3.1 Judene Edgar (Accessibility for All), Submission 22, agenda pages 35-36 refer

Ms Edgar spoke on behalf of the submission from Accessibility for All and said the organisation was a regional wide community-led group.

Ms Edgar spoke favourably for buses that could enable easier access for people with limited abilities, including those in wheel chairs and those with strollers. She said she was aware of the costs however Council could use incentives for the provider to provide such buses.

In response to a question, Ms Edgar said where bus stops were located was a limiting factor for the use of public transport in her opinion.

3.2 Debs Martin, submission 18, agenda pages 31 refer

Ms Martin spoke to her submission and entered apologies for the next submitter, Tessa Patrick and spoke to the submission from Ms Patrick. She said they were both supportive of an increase in public transport across the City.

The submitter said Ms Patrick was a regular user of the bus from town to Nayland College, and the weekend and evening bus. The submitter said Council should target young people as they are the main users of the bus, in her opinion. The submitter also said the public transport system at present was too expensive for many people.

The submitter said people were more likely to use a bus that was well maintained and comfortable. She added that popular locations including Saxton Field and Tahunanui should be prioritised in the route structure.

3.3 Chris Allison, submission 24, agenda pages 39 – 42

Mr Allison spoke to his submission and tabled additional information.

In response to a question, Mr Allison said that the number of people that will benefit from a system where bikes can be taken on buses is small.

Mr Allison said more should be done beyond just implementation of the Plan. He encouraged promotion of and incentives to bring about the behaviour change to using public transport and recommended the Council look to other nationwide initiatives where this has been achieved.

3.4 Ben Nistor, submission 27, agenda pages 46 refer

Mr Nistor commended the Council on the Plan however recommended that the fare was made affordable. He said student discounts need to be available and that Tasman District Council needs to commit support to a shared public transport system.

Mr Nistor said the current timetable needs to be expanded to include more trips throughout the day, evenings and weekends and not just be based around the 9am – 5pm working day.

3.5 Richard Butler, submission 3, agenda pages 3-4 refer

The submitter briefly spoke to the submission from the Nelson-Marlborough District Health Board.

The submitter mentioned that instead of raising the price of parking in Montgomery, Wakatu and Buxton Square the Council should charge for all-day parking in Hathaway Terrace.

The submitter mentioned that when designing a travel management plan the service should take into account what was needed for individual areas including any large employers like the hospital that require specific travel needs.

Attendance: the meeting adjourned for morning tea from 10.00 to 10.10am.

3.6 Colin Ratcliffe, submission 14, agenda pages 22-23 refer

Mr Ratcliffe suggested that improvements could be made to the proposed service as he was unsure if it would be used. He said if Tasman District Council did not support a public transport system, then it~~s~~ should not benefit Tasman residents.

Mr Ratcliffe said people travelling to town from the rural areas will always be responsible for much of the congestion and to be successful a public transport system would need to include rural residents.

3.7 Bill Sayer, submission 16, agenda pages 25-29 refer

Mr Sayer spoke to his submission and gave a Power Point presentation (1153209). Mr Sayer spoke in favour of electric buses as an affordable and environmentally friendly option and highlighted the advantages of electric buses.

3.8 The Nelson Youth Council, submission 12, agenda pages 20 refer

Members of the Nelson Youth Council spoke on behalf of the submission. They reiterated that public transport was the third most important issue in the opinion of Nelson young people as revealed in a survey conducted by the Nelson Youth Council.

It was mentioned that buses leaving Richmond and Stoke should be staggered as this service is currently unreliable. It was also mentioned that this service should be prioritised. The members recommended bus timetables be made available via iPhone Applications and other downloadable applications.

The use of student identification to utilise a student rate was emphasised.

4. Consideration of Submissions

Document No. 1144355 and 1074116, agenda pages 47-84 refer.

The Council discussed the submissions received to the draft Regional Public Transport Plan.

In response to a question, the Executive Manager Strategy and Planning, Michael Schruer, said it was a reality of the market that there may not be

competition to the current provider should the opportunity for a tender arise. He also advised the Council that it may be seen as pre-determination if the Council actively sought a provider that suited the desired contract.

The Council was informed that there was a report detailing the design of the bus service to be presented at the 1 September 2011 Council meeting and will detail aspects of the new service.

The Council also discussed other key issues in relation to the final Plan including:

- The proposed bus schedule
- if buses should be able to carry bicycles
- cleanliness of the buses and whether this should be included in the tender documents
- whether buses should travel further up Brook Street.

Regarding the staggering of the services, Ms Gwyn advised that it was intended that the services in Tahunanui will run to 40 minute intervals, with a bus departing Richmond every 20 minutes (one via Tahunanui, one via Bishopdale).

In response to a question, the Acting Chief Executive Alec Louverdis confirmed that there was a large budget associated with fixing vandalised bus shelters, however staff were looking at ways to minimise this damage. There was a discussion about what could be done to minimise this intentional damage, including education about the cost to ratepayers.

The Council discussed how to incorporate concession fares, which had been well supported in the submissions. The Council were advised of the trade-off in terms of reduced income.

It was agreed that concession fares would encourage more people to use the service and that increasing the use of public transport in Nelson was a priority.

There was general agreement for a concessionary rate targeting young people and community services card holders.

It was noted that it was not appropriate to have alcohol advertising on buses.

It was confirmed that the policy supporting public transport in Nelson will be based on a sustainable service and this will be included in the final recommendations.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 11.58am.

Confirmed as a correct record of proceedings:

_____ Chairperson _____ Date