

**Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public  
Transport Working Party  
Tuesday 1 August 2023 at 9.00-10.30am**

# **AGENDA**

## Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party Agenda

Meeting to be held in the NRC, Water Street  
Whangārei  
Council Chambers  
on Tuesday 1 August 2023, commencing at 9.00-10.30am

**Recommendations contained in the agenda are NOT decisions of the meeting. Please refer to minutes for resolutions.**

### **MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT WDC-NRC WHANGAREI PUBLIC TRANSPORT WORKING PARTY**

Chairperson, NRC Councillor Jack Crow

NRC Councillor Rick Stolwerk

NRC Councillor Joe Carr (Ex-Officio)

WDC Councillor Scott McKenzie

WDC Councillor Simon Reid

WDC Councillor Carol Peters

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**TITLE:** Confirmation of Minutes - 13 June 2023

**From:** Erica Wade, Personal Assistant - General Manager Community Resilience

**Authorised by** Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on  
**Group Manager/s:**


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### Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the minutes of the Whangārei Public Transport Working Party meeting held on 13 June 2023, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

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### Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Confirmation of minutes - 13 June 2023 [↓](#) 

Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party  
13 June 2023

## Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party Minutes

Meeting held in the NRC, Council Chambers  
36 Water St, Whangārei  
on Tuesday 13 June 2023, commencing at 9.00am - 10.30am

### Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, NRC Councillor Jack Craw  
NRC Councillor Rick Stolwerk  
NRC Councillor Joe Carr (Ex-Officio)  
WDC Councillor Scott McKenzie  
WDC Councillor Simon Reid

### I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

**Full Meeting**  
NRC Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer, Jonathan Gibbard  
NRC Acting Group Manager - Community Resilience, Jim Lyle  
NRC Secretariat, Erica Wade  
NTA Transport Manager, Chris Powell  
NTA Representative, Kayla Gunson (*online*)

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.00am.

### Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

### Ngā whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

#### Moved (Stolwerk / Craw)

That the apologies from Councillor Carol Peters for non-attendance be received.

**Carried**

### Confirmation of Minutes - 4 April 2023 (Item 4.1)

Report from Erica Wade, Personal Assistant - General Manager Community Resilience

#### Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

#### Moved (Stolwerk / Craw)

That the minutes of the Joint WDC-NRC Whangārei Public Transport Working Party meeting held on 4 April 2023, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

**Carried**

Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party  
13 June 2023

### **Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.1)**

**Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance**

**Nga mahi tutohutia / Recommendation**

**Moved (Stolwerk / McKenzie)**

That the action sheet be received.

**Carried**

### **Whangarei CityLink, Bream Bay, Hikurangi Bus Services and Total Mobility - Update (Item 6.1)**

**Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance**

**Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation**

**Moved (Stolwerk / McKenzie)**

That the report 'Whangarei CityLink, Bream Bay, Hikurangi Bus Services and Total Mobility - Update' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and dated 22 May 2023, be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial note: Community Service Cards: Changes have been made and NRC are ready to go for the 1 July deadline. The media have approached NTA staff inquiring about the double decker buses, these are not part of the contract, they are strictly Ministry of Education buses.*

#### **Action**

1. Discussion was had around having the Bream Bay link extended to One Tree Point. Chris and Cr. Stolwerk will continue to have discussions around this possibility and options are to be presented back to this group.
2. Bus driver wages and shortages: NRC have not yet received the MoU back from Ritchies regardless of the follow up from Chris. Chris will draft a letter to Ritchies giving a timeframe for return of the MoU and for their plan regarding the driver shortage in Northland; letter to be signed by Jonathan. If no response within a fortnight of sending the letter, Chris will follow up with arranging a meeting between Ritchies, Jonathan and Chris.

### **Update on Kamo bus lanes to include progress report and proposed start date (Item 6.2)**

**Report from Jeffrey Devine, Northland Transport Alliance - Strategy & Planning Manager**

**Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation**

**Moved (McKenzie / Stolwerk)**

That the report 'Update on Kamo bus lanes to include progress report and proposed start date' by Jeffrey Devine, Northland Transport Alliance - Strategy & Planning Manager and dated 6 June 2023, be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial note: The Construction of the bus lanes are to start in August 2023. Funding is to be spent by Financial year ending 2024, with the idea to put any remaining funds into more lanes.*

Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party  
13 June 2023

*There was a discussion around future projects such as a park and ride, this is not part of the current strategy at the moment, however if this project is successful, the group will look at future projects including bus lanes for the return trip, coastal routes and possibly look at a park and ride.*

*Further discussion was had around electric buses. The cost per vehicle is approximately \$700k not including charging stations. As a council we can encourage Ritchies to use electric buses however, we do not want to push ourselves out of the market.*

**Action:**

1. Chris will investigate where the extra power will come from if moving to an electric bus fleet and inform the group at the next meeting.
2. Chris will draft up a reply to MP Dr. Shane Reti regarding Totara Park route options and have the members approve prior to sending to MP Dr. Shane Reti.

*Secretarial note: There was discussion about the requirement for an Emissions Reduction Plan to be in the Regional Land Transport Plan by 2024, with responsibilities for both NRC and WDC.*

**Whakamutunga (Conclusion)**

**The meeting concluded at 9.54am**

**TITLE:**                    **Action Sheet**

**From:**                    Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance

**Authorised by**            Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on  
**Group Manager/s:**

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### **Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary**

The purpose of this report is to enable the meeting to receive the current action sheet.

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### **Nga mahi tutohutia / Recommendation**

That the action sheet be received.

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### **Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Attachment 1: Action Sheet [!\[\]\(d0262bbe9d2356661a2e89321dfcc781\_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(8572950e410320d7dd023da827ff014d\_img.jpg\)](#)

Whangarei Public Transport Working Party Action Sheet						
Action #	Meeting date	Agenda Item	Action	Person(s) responsible	Status	Notes
1	7/02/2023	WDC progress on Kamo Road bus lane	Members are to forward the information they required to the NRC GM – Community Resilience and the NTA Rooding Manager to provide an update on the Kamo bus lane at the next meeting (including reassurance for completion by 1 July 2023)	Members and Louisa Gritt	In Progress	
2	13/06/2023	Whangarei CityLink, Bream Bay, Hikurangi Bus Services and Total Mobility - Update (Item 6.1)	Discussion was had around having the Bream Bay link extended to One Tree Point. Chris and Cr. Stolwerk will continue to have discussions around this possibility and options are to be presented back to this group.	Chris Powell and Cr. Rick Stolwerk	In Progress	Meeting scheduled for 1 August 2023.
3	13/06/2023	Whangarei CityLink, Bream Bay, Hikurangi Bus Services and Total Mobility - Update (Item 6.1)	Bus driver wages and shortages: NRC have not yet received the MoU back from Ritchies regardless of the follow up from Chris. Chris will draft a letter to Ritchies giving a timeframe for return of the MoU and for their plan regarding the driver shortage in Northland; letter to be signed by Jonathan. If no response within a fortnight of sending the letter, Chris will follow up with arranging a meeting between Ritchies, Jonathan and Chris.	Chris Powell	In Progress	Bus driver wages completed. All MoU's signed. E-mail from Jonathan sent to Ritchies in regards drivers required to drive the buses for school children. Ritchies have advised drivers will be brought in to cover these duties during the 3rd term 2023. Staff will liaise with Ritchies on best way to phase these in.
4	13/06/2023	Update on Kamo bus lanes to include progress report and proposed start date (Item 6.2)	Chris will investigate where the extra power will come from if moving to an electric bus fleet and inform the group at the next meeting.	Chris Powell	In Progress	Staff working with Northpower on extra power and related infrastructure for moving to electric buses. at this time, Northpower are confident that they can provide the additional power required. WDC are in the process of rebuilding Rose Street Bus Terminus main building. This will include getting Northpower to make provision for charging buses at Rose Street in the future.
5	13/06/2023	Update on Kamo bus lanes to include progress report and proposed start date (Item 6.2)	Chris will draft up a reply to MP Dr. Shane Reti regarding Totara Park route options and have the members approve prior to sending to MP Dr. Shane Reti.	Chris Powell	In Progress	Reply sent to Dr Reti. Staff have come up with a recommended variation to the existing route and will discuss this with Cr Craw, Dr Reti and Bupa Totara Gardens Retirement Village at an on-site meeting.



**TITLE:** **Whangārei Public Transport Update**

**From:** Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance

**Authorised by** Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on 18 July 2023  
**Group Manager/s:**

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### **Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary**

This paper updates the Joint Whangarei District Council/Northland Regional Council Whangarei Public Transport Working Group since the last meeting held on 13 June 2023.

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### **Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation**

That the report 'Whangārei Public Transport Update' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and dated 11 July 2023, be received.

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### **Bus Drivers – Update on current Situation**

NRC have been working with Ritchies on an action plan to source bus drivers to cover the additional buses required on the CityLink Service to manage the increase in school children on the existing buses. Ritchies have informed NRC that they intend to introduce these additional services over the course of term 3 (17 Jul – 22 Sep) and will work with NRC staff on an implementation plan.

### **Upgrade Rose Street Bus Terminus.**

Following on from the re-seal and construction of the new bus shelters, Whangarei District Council (WDC) have started Stage 2 of the Rose Street Bus Terminus upgrade. This will consist of removing the old terminus building and replacing it with a modern, user-friendly facility.

It is anticipated that this will assist in attracting people back to the CityLink Service and encourage new passengers to use the buses. This will, in turn, have the added benefit of assisting in reducing vehicle kilometres travelled and reducing carbon emission in the City of Whangarei.

WDC, NRC, Northland Transportation Alliance (NTA) and Northpower staff are presently working on the initial design. This work includes repositioning the Northpower generator situated at Rose Street Bus Terminus with minimum disruption and allowing for charging facilities for CityLink buses in the future.

### **Government National Public Transport Concessions Scheme**

Staff worked closely with the transport operators and Waka Kotahi in the implementation of the new fare concessions scheme which went live on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

These changes include: -

- Community Service Card holders  
Community Connect is a central government funded concession that provides discounted fares on public transport for Community Services Card (CSC) holders.  
For more information on CC: <https://citylinkwhangarei.co.nz/community-connect/>
- Half Price Fares and Free Travel  
These concessions will make public transport cheaper for families with children and young people and are consist of: -
  - Free travel for 5 – 12 year-olds

- Half price fares for 13 – 24 year olds.
- Continuation of 75% subsidy of Total Mobility fares

For more information: <https://citylinkwhangarei.co.nz/children-and-young-people/>

At the time of compiling this report, no adverse issues have been reported.

### **Total Mobility Scheme for Whangarei**

The Total Mobility Scheme continues to grow in Whangarei with an average of 10 to 15 clients being signed up every week. By the end of May 2023, year to date expenditure had exceeded budget by 26%.

This increase continues to place pressure on the available funding. Staff have worked with the WDC and Waka Kotahi to source sufficient funding assistance to provide an uninterrupted service in the 2023/2024 financial year.

This is national issue. The Ministry of Transport have advised that they have commenced an in-depth study into the operation and funding of the national Total Mobility Scheme and are hoping to provide something in the near future. To date nothing further has been received.

### **Proposed Totara Park Bus Service**

Cr Craw and staff have been in contact with Minister Reti and have organised an on-site meeting on Friday 28 July 2023 with Bupa Totara Gardens Retirement Village.

In the interim, staff have prepared a proposal that will allow for the extension of the existing Tikipunga/Kamo route to include Totara Park and are working with the NTA on identifying the most appropriate bus stop sites.

### **Kamo Bus Lane Update**

In February, NZTA confirmed Climate Emergency Relief Funding (CERF) for the construction of the Kamo bus priority lane project. The CERF funding is provided at a 100% subsidy rate for WDC.

Following this announcement Council's consultants have started work on the detailed design for the construction phase of these works as well as continuing with completing the business case which will be required for future NZTA funding for following stages of the city-wide project.

The detailed design phase is currently being finalised and peer reviewed. It is anticipated the construction phase of the Kamo bus lane project will commence after August, following a public consultation phase.

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### **Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Nil