

**Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public
Transport Working Party
Tuesday 5 April 2022 at 1.00pm**

AGENDA

Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party Agenda

Meeting to be held via audiovisual link
on Tuesday 5 April 2022, commencing at 1.00pm

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, Councillor Terry Archer

NRC Councillor Rick Stolwerk

NRC Councillor Jack Craw

WDC Councillor Tricia Cutforth

WDC Councillor Anna Murphy

WDC Councillor Greg Martin


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TITLE: Confirmation of Minutes – 8 December 2021
From: Nicky Hansen, PA to GM Community Resilience
Authorised by Victoria Harwood, Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience, on 30
Group Manager/s: March 2022

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the minutes of the Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party meeting held on 8 December 2021, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: 2021 12 08 Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party Minutes - unconfirmed [↓](#) 

Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party
8 December 2021

Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party Minutes

Meeting held via audiovisual link
on Wednesday 8 December 2021, commencing at 11.00am

Tuhinga/Present:

Deputy Chairperson, NRC Councillor Rick Stolwerk
NRC Councillor Jack Crow
WDC Councillor Tricia Cutforth
WDC Councillor Anna Murphy
WDC Councillor Greg Martin

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting
NRC Group Manager Community Resilience – Victoria Harwood
NTA General Manager, Calvin Thomas
NTA, Jeff Devine
NTA, Chris Powell
NTA, Sharlene Selkirk
NTA, Dean Mitchell
Committee Secretariat, Laura Exton

The Chair declared the meeting open at 11.07am.

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Moved (Stolwerk / Crow)

That the apologies from Chair, Councillor Terry Archer for non-attendance be received.

Carried

Confirmation of Minutes - 11 August 2021 (Item 4.1)

Report from Laura Exton, Community Resilience Executive Assistant

Moved (Crow/Stolwerk)

That the minutes of the Joint WDC-NRC Whangārei Public Transport Working Party meeting held on 11 August 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party
8 December 2021

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.1)

Report from Laura Exton, Community Resilience Executive Assistant

Moved (Martin/Cutforth)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

CityLink (Whangarei) Operational Update - November 2021 (Item 6.1)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transport Alliance

Moved (Stolwerk/Craw)

That the report 'CityLink (Whangarei) Operational Update - November 2021' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transport Alliance and dated 26 November 2021, be received.

Carried

Verbal Update on the Rose Street Terminus Upgrade and Four-Laning Project (Item 6.2)

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

Moved (Stolwerk/Craw)

Northland Transport Alliance Strategy & Planning Manager, Jeffrey Devine, will provide a verbal update on the Rose Street Terminus upgrade and the four-laning project.

Carried

Actions:

1. *A written update regarding the anti-social behaviour experienced at Rose Street bus terminal is to be provided at the next Public Transport Working Party meeting.*
2. *A written update regarding the timeline and budget for the NLTP-funded Kamo bus lane is to be provided at the next Public Transport Working Party meeting.*

Secretarial note:

It was discussed and agreed upon that the meeting frequency for the NRC WDC Joint Public Transport Working Party be increased to four times per year.

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 11.57am.

TITLE: **Receipt of Action Sheet**

From: Nicky Hansen, PA to GM Community Resilience

Authorised by Victoria Harwood, Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience, on 30
Group Manager/s: March 2022



Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

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

Nga mahi tutohutia / Recommendation

That the action sheet be received.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Action Sheet 2022 03 30  

TITLE: Government Half-Fares for Public Transport

From: Victoria Harwood, Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience

Authorised by Victoria Harwood, Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience, on 28
Group Manager/s: March 2022

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

Central Government announced on 14 March 2022 that all public transport fares would be reduced by 50% from 1 April to 30 June 2022 in response to cost of living “crisis”, the continuing negative financial global impact caused by COVID and the sudden and marked increase in the price of fuel.

Waka Kotahi will be covering the costs of these reductions with no impact to council services and budgets.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report ‘Government Half-Fares for Public Transport’ by Victoria Harwood, Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience and dated 21 March 2022, be received.

Background/Tuhinga

Waka Kotahi updated that the government 50% fare reduction initiative is confirmed with the following criteria:

1. Fares will be recovered based on “Actual Fares” taken. I.e., NRC take a \$100 half fares, Waka Kotahi reimburse NRC the other \$100
2. Implementation costs will be covered by Waka Kotahi – Changes to ticket machines etc.
3. Communications costs to be covered by Waka Kotahi
4. Total Mobility is to be confirmed but initial conversation leading toward a similar discounted fare. (As TM clients already get a 50% discount on their fares, the remaining portion paid to the driver will be 50% discounted).
5. The National Land Transport Fund is not affected by these payments

In Northland, work has already started regarding having the ticket machines programmed with the new fare from 1 April 2022 for three months.

Hopefully people who stopped using public transport recently will come back again and that additional people may try out public transport services as a result.

At a similar time to the government’s announcement, the Whangarei District Council announced they would offer free parking from 14 March to 25 April within the Whangarei business district, which overlaps the start of the 50% reduction in bus fares starting 1 April. The WDC free parking initiative aims to “get people coming into town, getting back to normal routines of shopping, eating, and organising their lives”.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: Whangarei District - Link Bus Services Update February 2022

From: Victoria Harwood, Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience

Authorised by Victoria Harwood, Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience, on 28
Group Manager/s: March 2022

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

Bus services continue to be delivered as planned across the Whangarei district at present with no major impact on drivers and services resulting from the Ormicron outbreak of COVID.

The bus passenger numbers, fares and total mobility scheme usage are outlined in the report and remain consistent with figures from previous months.

Contingency planning for both Total Mobility Services and bus driver availability is underway in anticipation of a flow on effect from COVID.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Whangarei District - Link Bus Services Update February 2022' by Victoria Harwood, Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience and dated 21 March 2022, be received.

Background/Tuhinga

LINK PASSENGER TRANSPORT

CITYLINK, BREAM BAY LINK, HIKURANGI LINK, WHANGAREI HEADS LINK

*BusLink figures are reported one month in arrears, due to the required information being unavailable at the time of the agenda deadline.

Bus Link stats for February 2022 (revenue ex GST)	Actual	Budget	Variance	Year/Date Actual	Year/Date Budgeted	Variance
CityLink Passengers	13,123	21,900	-8,777	149,341	182,238	-32,897
CityLink Revenue	\$19,091	\$28,521	-\$9,430	\$191,727	\$237,334	-\$45,607
Bream Bay Link Passengers	59	24	35	309	180	129
Bream Bay Link Revenue	\$356	\$86	\$270	\$1,983	\$648	\$1,335

Hikurangi Link Passengers	25	24	1	141	168	-27
Hikurangi Link Revenue	\$65	\$63	\$2	\$326	\$469	-\$143
Whangarei Heads Link Passengers	9	24	-15	70	180	-110
Whangarei Heads Link Revenue	\$39	\$104	-\$65	\$293	\$782	-\$489

All services remain operating at full schedules however COVID-19 still appears to be the major reason for passenger numbers remaining low.

National Bus Driver Shortage

The national shortage of bus drivers is not something new. It has been an ongoing problem in the larger cities for some time but has now reached the level that Auckland Transport is failing to cover up to 1,100 trips a day.

From ongoing feedback received from regional council counterparts, Waka Kotahi, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Education, it has become apparent that because of COVID-19, this driver shortage has rapidly escalated to the point that numerous contracted operators are having to cancel a growing number of trips each day. Some councils have resorted to operating Saturday timetables only as this is all they can cover.

This scenario will be exacerbated when the borders open and immigrant drivers return to their country of origin to visit families. These visits are expected to take months, not weeks.

At this time, the impact on the Northland Regional Council's contracted services has been negligible but there is a high probability that this driver shortage will eventually negatively impact these services.

Following consultation with the operators, the following action is being undertaken to address the above:

- **Hikurangi Link** – Once a week shopping service. Worst case scenario would be this service being suspended for a brief period.
- **CityLink** – NRC have been working on a timetable that will offer a reduced service whilst covering as much as possible. This would allow for 7 drivers needed to operate the reduced service, rather than the current 12.
- **Bream Bay Link** – This is a once-a-week service with all drivers of the company being vaccinated. Worst case scenario would be this service being suspended for a brief period.

In addition to the above, the transport team will work closely with the comms team to ensure that as many customers as possible are advised of any impending disruptions.

Total Mobility (TM)

*Total Mobility Scheme figures are reported one month in arrears, due to the required information being unavailable at the time of the agenda deadline.

	Total Clients	Monthly Actual Expend	Monthly Budgeted Expend	Monthly Variance	Year/Date Actual Expend	Year/Date Budgeted Expend	Annual Variance
February 2022	1,233	\$16,372	\$25,000	-\$8,628	\$133,901	\$150,000	-\$16,099

COVID-19 Contingency Plans for Total Mobility

Northland Transportation Alliance (NTA) staff are working with Total Mobility Transport Operators and Assessing Agencies on Contingency Plans should Omicron take a hold in Northland.

As transport is classified an essential service, and these clients are deemed as most at risk, they must be able to access the Total Mobility Scheme to meet their essential needs.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: Rose Street Bus Terminal Upgrade - Update

From: Victoria Harwood, Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience

Authorised by Victoria Harwood, Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience, on 28
Group Manager/s: March 2022

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

The Whangarei District Council's Rose Street Bus Terminus has begun phase 1 of planned upgrades. The upgrades started on 2 March 2022, with bus infrastructure moved to Vine Street while the work is completed to assist with the continuation of CityLink bus services.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Rose Street Bus Terminal Upgrade - Update' by Victoria Harwood, Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience and dated 21 March 2022, be received.

Background/Tuhinga

The first phase of the Rose Street Bus Terminus upgrade commenced on 2 March 2022. This work centres around upgrading the bus traffic flow, existing bus bays, installation of new shelters and pedestrian crossings. It will also allow for space to accommodate additional buses when required.

The upgrade of the existing building, which includes passenger seating, office accommodation and public toilets, is not being undertaken during this phase. The planned date for the second phase of this work is yet unknown but is included currently in year five of the Whangarei District Council Long-Term Plan.

During this phase of the upgrades, the buses are using Vine Street which has bus bays, bus stop signage and timetables installed. Verbal feedback from the public is they prefer the Vine Street location for the bus terminal as there is less anti-social behaviour compared to that experienced at the Rose Street terminal.

The first phase is expected to be completed by May 2022.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil