

## Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party Record of Actions

Meeting held via audio-visual link  
on Tuesday 7 February 2023, commencing at 1.00pm

### Tuhinga/Present:

NRC Councillor Jack Crow  
WDC Councillor Scott McKenzie  
WDC Councillor Simon Reid  
WDC Councillor Carol Peters

### I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

#### Full Meeting

NRC GM – Community Resilience, Louisa Gritt  
NTA Transport Manager, Chris Powell  
PA to GM – Community Resilience, Lou Hartigan

#### Part Meeting

NTA General Manager, Calvin Thomas (1.00 – 1.20pm)

The meeting commenced at 1.02pm.

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

1. The new NRC GM – Community resilience was introduced and there was general agreement that she would chair the meeting until Item 5.1 when the Chairperson was appointed and would then preside over the meeting.
3. Attendees to raise their hand via the audio-visual link if they wanted to address the meeting.

### Ngā whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

The apologies from NRC Councillor Stolwerk, NRC Councillor Carr and NTA Roading Manager, Jeff Devine, for non-attendance were noted.

### Ngā whakapuakanga/Declarations of Conflict of Interest (Item 3.0)

Members were advised to declare any conflicts of interest as they arose during the meeting.

## **Noting of Minutes of 2 August 2022 (Item 4.1)**

### **Report from Louisa Gritt, NRC Group Manager Community Resilience**

The minutes of the Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party meeting held on 2 August 2022 were noted.

## **Nomination of Chair (Item 5.1)**

### **Report from Louisa Gritt, NRC Group Manager Community Resilience**

Councillor Peters moved that Councillor Jack Crow be appointed Chair of the Working Party. The nomination had been previously endorsed by Councillor Rick Stolwerk via e-mail. With no further nominations forthcoming, and all members in favour of the nomination, Cr Jack Crow was elected unopposed to the position of Chair.

Due to Councillor Crow having technical issues, the NRC GM – Community Resilience continued to chair the meeting (noting that Councillor Crow would chair future meetings).

## **Overall progress on doubling bus frequency (Item 5.2)**

### **Report from Councillor Jack Crow**

An update was provided regarding the progress on doubling of bus frequency.

It was noted that there was a critical shortage of drivers and there was currently a recruitment drive for bus drivers including overseas recruitment.

#### **ACTION:**

The NTA Transport Manager to suggest to bus companies that during the recruitment process they should highlight the advantages of living in Northland (for example the cost of housing). In addition to suggest that bus companies consider recruiting students as bus drivers.

## **WDC progress on Kamo Road bus lane (Item 5.3)**

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

It was questioned whether there was viability for a Transit 2 lane (T2), not just a bus lane.

#### **ACTION:**

- 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).

## **Provision of legal opinion on responsibility for school children on non-school provided buses (Item 5.4)**

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

**ACTION:**

- The NTA Transport Manager to ensure that the legal opinion that had previously been sought regarding the responsibilities for untoward behaviour on buses was provided at the next working party meeting.

## **General matters for next agenda**

Conversation with Ministry of Education about their criteria for collecting children in rural areas noting the absence of footpaths on rural roads.

Status update on the Maunu Road priority bus lane given WDC is to receive \$3.3m from the government's Climate Emergency Response Fund.

Consider lobbying the Minister of Transport to continue the reduced public transport and reduced fares on buses to the end of the year, rather than 1 July 2023 as recently advised.

## **Whakamutunga (Conclusion)**

**The meeting concluded at 1.55pm**