

**Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public
Transport Working Party
Tuesday 11 June 2024 at 9.00am**

AGENDA

Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party Agenda

Meeting to be held in the NRC council chambers
36 Water Street,
Whangārei
on Tuesday 11 June 2024, commencing at 9.00am

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 Jack Crow

NRC Councillor Rick Stolwerk

WDC Councillor Scott

WDC Councillor Simon Reid

McKenzie

WDC Councillor Carol Peters

RĪMITI (Item)	Page
1.0 NGĀ MAHI WHAKAPAI/HOUSEKEEPING	
2.0 NGĀ WHAKAPAHĀ/APOLOGIES	
3.0 NGĀ WHAKAPUAKANGA/DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	
4.0 NGĀ WHAKAAE MINITI / CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	
4.1 Confirmation of Minutes - 2 April 2024	3
5.0 RECEIPT OF ACTION SHEET	
5.1 Receipt of Action Sheet	6
6.0 REPORTS	
6.1 Operational Report	8
6.2 Frequency of Future Meetings	
<i>Discussion to be led by Cr. Crow</i>	

TITLE: Confirmation of Minutes - 2 April 2024
From: Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience
Authorised by Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on 4 June 2024
Group Manager/s:

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the minutes of the Whangarei Public Transport Working Party meeting held on 2 April 2024, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: WPTWP Minutes - 2 April 2024 [↓](#) 

Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party
2 April 2024

Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party Minutes

Meeting held in the NRC council chambers
36 Water Street,
Whangārei
on Tuesday 2 April 2024, commencing at 9.00am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Councillor Jack Crow
NRC Councillor Rick Stolwerk
NRC Councillor Joe Carr (*Ex-officio*)
WDC Councillor Scott McKenzie
WDC Councillor Simon Reid (*arrived 9.16am*)
WDC Councillor Carol Peters

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting
NRC Councillor, John Blackwell (*arrived 9.09am*)
Group Manager - Community Resilience, Louisa Gritt
NRC Secretariat, Erica Wyatt
NTA representative, Kayla Gunson

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.00am.

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

There were no apologies.

Confirmation of Minutes - 13 February 2024 (Item 4.1)

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

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Peters/McKenzie)

That the minutes of the Joint Whangārei Public Transport Working Party meeting held on 13 February 2024, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Secretarial note: Discussion had around inviting Ritchies to upcoming meetings.

Actions:

- NTA to present the figures at the next meeting on how many driver positions have been filled, how long is it taking to full positions, how many drivers are still needed, how are

Joint WDC-NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party
2 April 2024

Ritchies prioritising Whangarei, what are the issues with recruiting drivers, where is Whangārei sitting nationally and locally?

Carried

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.1)

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

Nga mahi tutohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Stolwerk/Peters)

That the action sheet be received.

Secretarial note: Amendment to action 1, is to read 'State Highway 14 Maunu is being considered by Waka Kotahi. There will be some funding available for the Riverside / Onerahi priority lanes however no funding available for the other two lanes.'

Carried

Operational Report (Item 6.1)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Stolwerk / Peters)

That the report 'Operational Report' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator and dated 11 March 2024, be received.

Secretarial note: Discussion had around the rumour of using rail cars to transport school students. This is not currently a plan.

Carried

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 9.21pm.

TITLE: **Receipt of Action Sheet**

From: Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Authorised by Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on 23 May 2024
Group Manager/s:

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 Tracker [↓](#) 

Whangarei Public Transport Working Party Action Sheet

Action #	Meeting date	Agenda Item	Action	Person(s) responsible	Status	Notes
1	2/04/2024	Confirmation of minutes (4.1)	NTA to present the figures at the next meeting on how many driver positions have been filled, how long is it taking to full positions, how many drivers are still needed, how are Ritchies prioritising Whangarei, what are the issues with recruiting drivers, where is Whangārei sitting nationally and locally?	NTA	In progress	23/05/24: Report on figures to be presented at the next WPTWP meeting

TITLE: **Operational Report**

From: Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on 28 May 2024

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

This updates the Whangarei District Council/Northland Regional Council Public Transport Working Party (WPTWP) on the various Whangarei passenger transport services in operation and projects being undertaken since the meeting of 2 April 2024.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Operational Report' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and dated 8 April 2024, be received.

Background/Tuhinga

Amendment to Fares

Following a directive from the new Government, from 30 April 2024, the nationally subsidised half price bus fares for 13 to 24 years old and free fares for 5 – 12-year-olds were withdrawn. On 1 May 2024 all passengers in these age groups reverted to paying the full fare as charged prior to the introduction of this concession scheme.

Staff undertook an intensive advertising campaign during the month of April 2024 to advise passengers of this. There was no noticeable adverse reaction since the re-introduction of the existing fares. It is still too early to ascertain if there has been a reduction of passengers due to the above.

Farebox Recovery Ratio

The Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024, included the following: -

Page 21 – Strategic Priority: Value for Money

"Increased public transport fare box recovery and third-party revenue will be expected from local government".

Page 23: Investment in Land Transport – Public Transport Services

"This GPS will expect greater farebox recovery and third-party revenue by Public Transport Authorities in order to help support the increased costs that are occurring through the public transport sector."

Third-Party funding is revenue from bus-back advertising, public transport infrastructure advertising etc.

This policy was in place pre 2017 but was phased out by the government of the day. With the shortage of national funding available, the new government is now wanting to re-introduce this to have increased farebox revenue offsetting national and local share funding assistance.

Understanding that any fare increase invariably leads to a reduction in passenger numbers, prior to any recommendations being made to the WPTWP, staff will undertake the following work to ascertain if these could be viable alternatives: -

1. Look for means of increasing passenger numbers on the existing services.
2. Make changes to the existing services to encourage increased passenger loadings.
3. Seek operational efficiencies to reduce costs whilst mitigating passenger loss.
4. Look to disincentives to using a car – Less parking available.

An increase fares will be recommended as a last resort.

National Ticketing System

The NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) have been working on the National Ticketing System (NTS) for over a year now. They had planned to roll out the proposed name of the system prior to May 2024, but due to numerous delays have not yet done so. It is hoped that the Minister of Transport will be able to do this end May into June 2024. The Working Party will be updated on this at the next meeting.

CityLink Driver Situation

As requested at the last WPTWP, an e-mail was sent to the Commercial and Contracts Manager of Ritchies requesting the following information: -

- How many of the bus driver positions have been filled?
- How many bus driver vacancies presently exist?
- How long, on average, does it take to fill these vacancies?
- How is Ritchies prioritising bus drivers its Whangarei services?
- What are the issues faced when trying to recruit bus drivers for Whangarei?
- Where are these services sitting both nationally and locally in regard driver shortage severity?

The above had not been received at the time of submitting this paper, it will be presented on the day of the meeting.

SchoolLink Service

Ritchies have confirmed that they will have the relevant drivers available to operate the SchoolLink Bus Service from 10 June 2024. However, issues with the ticketing machines that have to be resolved has delayed the start of these services until Monday 17 June 2024.

They had recently undertaken a comprehensive summer recruitment campaign. All applicants, applied for the conveyance of special needs children and when interviewed showed a reluctance to drive buses with school children only, due to the antisocial behaviour experienced on similar services. Ritchies have now approached retired drivers to operate the SchoolLink services with some success.

Staff have been contacting schools and other relevant parties to advise of the delay. At this time, no formal advertising has been undertaken.

Bream Bay Link Service Extension

Due to the large volume of work presently being experienced along with a shortage of staff, progress on this project has unfortunately been delayed.

Totara Park Service – Passenger Loadings

Passenger loadings in Totara Park have been slow to pick up since date of implementation. Whilst low, there has been a gradual yet steady increase.

February 2024	= 4
March 2024	= 18
April 2024	= 23

Staff will continue to monitor the service.

Rose Street Bus Terminus - Update

August/September 2024 have been given as proposed start date for Phase 2 of the Rose Street Upgrade.

Whangarei Young Week

Youth Week in Whangarei ran from 20 May 2024 to 25 May 2024. To support this initiative, the Northland Regional Council (NRC) provided a free bus pass for a for all persons between the ages of 12-24 traveling on a CityLink bus during this period.

At the time of compiling this report, statistics on the usage of this offer were not available, however, please see Attachment I for a copy of an e-mail sent to the NRC from a student of Whangarei Boys High detailing appreciation for the above.

T2 Lanes - Update

The Whangarei District Council I have provided the following update on the Kamo Road T2 Lane: -

- Approaching final design. Timelines for procurement - looking to July 2024/ August 2024.
- Submitted a change request to Waka Kotahi to build only section 1 (bottom of Bank to Moody Ave), if budget will only stretch this far. This request has been approved.
- Downer and CSL are currently working on providing realistic market rates for the project. Due in 2 weeks.
- Modelling results for Section 2 (Whau Valley Intersection North) have been received and digested.
 - Project would not materially affect travel times for T1 / buses and T2, positively or negatively due to insufficient average queue lengths currently.
 - Major benefit of T2 lane in this location, is it provides reliability to the bus service, as queueing in this area was observed to be variably volatile.

Total Mobility Scheme


The number of clients signing on to the Total Mobility Scheme (TM) continues to escalate since the implementation of the reduced user pays portion of the fare.

Both Whangarei District Council and NZTA have agreed to cover the increase in local and national share to cover for this.

The Ministry of Transport and NZTA are involved in a review of the TM Scheme and the eligibility criteria (MoT) and the future funding requirements (NZTA).

NZTA are in the process of collecting all relevant data from regional councils to assist in the compilation of a report to the Minister of Transport to support claims for increased funding assistance.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: E-Mail on Youth Week [↓](#) 

From: Frankie Johns <frankie.johns@wbhs.school.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 9:08 PM
To: mailroom <info@nrc.govt.nz>
Subject: Johns F Youth Week Citylink Free Bus Promotion 20240521

Tenā Koe,

My name is Frankie Johns, I am a student at Whangārei Boys High School, and an active member of the community advocating for more youth-oriented events in Whangārei as well as more support for Rangatahi.

I am writing to show Northland Regional Council how much this promotion (Free Buses for Youth Week) has done for rangatahi and to show my unwavering support for it. I cannot tell you enough how much this promotion affects Rangatahi, and how much we appreciate it. I know it is probably not viable to keep this promotion running throughout the year, but I know having this during youth week has made an impact on us.

I recently spoke about this promotion at our weekly assembly, the response I got from every single student in the auditorium was unbelievable. Never has a presentation at an assembly got a round of a applause as loud and a genuine cheer from all 1500 students while I have been at the school. Every single student was shocked and happy that NRC & WDC were offering this promotion, not only were all the students happy about this, so were the teachers, many of which came up to me and asked more about the promotion and said kind words about it. I know many of the students have taken a bus ticket or scanned the QR code on the posters to make use of this benefit.

I encourage you to make sure this happens next year, and every year after that. This is what rangatahi need, this does support them, especially now that we are at a point in our lives where costs are going up. Public transport is a basic necessity, and everyone should be able to access it, this promotion breaks that barrier. Even though it is only for one week in the year, it makes rangatahi feel appreciated.

Please forward this email to anyone who had anything to do with making this promotion happen, please let them know what this makes rangatahi feel, and that we want this. This email may just be coming from me but I'm telling you now every young person in Whangārei wants this. It makes public transport more accessible and makes Whangārei busier and supports the growth of our always growing city.

Feel free to contact me about this email, I would happily speak to councillors and NRC staff about the importance of this promotion, because it is important, and it should be supported, acknowledged and be able to grow into a bigger promotion.

Ngā Mihi
Frankie Johns

Ph: 022 508 1584

Whangārei Boys' High School
245 Western Hills Drive, Avenues, Whangārei 0110 | PO Box 5034, Whangārei 0140
Reception 09 430 4170 | Year 12 Dean phone 09 430 4170 ext 232 | wbhs.school.nz



**WHANGĀREI BOYS'
HIGH SCHOOL**

DEVELOPING BOYS INTO FINE MEN

