

Unconfirmed

Minutes of a meeting of the Regional Transport Committee

Date:	Friday 16 May 2025
Time:	10.00am RTPP Submissions Hearing
Venue:	Council Chamber Hawke's Bay Regional Council 159 Dalton Street NAPIER
Present:	Cr M Williams, Chair Cr J van Beek, Deputy Chair Cr M Buddo (HDC) Mayor C Little (WDC) Cr K Taylor (CHBDC)(<i>online</i>) Cr K Price (NCC) L Stewart (NZTA)
Advisory members in Attendance:	N Ganivet (Napier Port) (<i>online</i>) A Hallett (NZ Police) D Murray (AA) A Robin (HBRC Māori Committee) N Flack (HB Airport) Dr M Radford (Te Whatu Ora)
In Attendance:	K Brunton – Group Manager Policy & Regulation R Turnbull – Transport Manager L Hooper – Governance Team Leader
TAG	B Cullen – HBRC Transport Strategy & Policy Analyst S McKinley – CHBDC (<i>online</i>) J Pannu – HDC (<i>online</i>) Submitters as noted

1. Welcome/Karakia /Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone and Api Robin opened the meeting with a karakia.

Resolution

RTC13/25 That the apologies for absence from Councillor Tania Kerr, Ian Emmerson and Daniel Headifen be accepted.

Buddo/Williams
CARRIED

2. Conflict of interest declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 21 February 2025

RTC14/25 Resolution

Minutes of the Regional Transport Committee held on Friday, 21 February 2025, a copy having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.

Buddo/Price
CARRIED

4. Hearing of submissions on Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035

The Chair introduced the item, thanked the public for the depth and breadth of the submissions and outlined the process to be followed today.

RTC15/25 Resolutions

That Hawke's Bay Regional Council:

1. Receives and considers the *Hearing of Submissions on Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 – Introduction* staff report.
2. Receives and considers written and verbal submissions, social media and Remix feedback received on the Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035.

van Beek/Little
CARRIED

The committee commenced hearing the verbal submissions from members of the public.

- Jude Henderson on behalf of **Blind Low Vision NZ** (formerly Blind Foundation) (**sub 76**). The challenges faced by public transport users with disabilities are not adequately addressed to provide accessible, safe, public transport in HB. Please investigate accessibility initiatives elsewhere that could be implemented in HB to make services more accessible.
- Jude Henderson on behalf of **Napier Disability Awareness Group** (**sub 155**) noted the need for equitable access to public transport and advocates for better bus driver training on how to communicate and interact with disabled passengers. Suggested a 'disability liaison' or community transport role be established.
- Kate Ivicheva and Robin Malley on behalf of **Napier City Council** (**sub149**) stressed the need for a safe, accessible public transport system that uses low/no emission vehicles and support for the expansion of services to include the airport.
- Glennis Libby (sub142) expressed support for services through Clive, Whakatu, and Mangateretere to Napier and Hastings. Suggests bus shelters should have room for wheelchairs and mobility scooters, lighting and current information panels, and that bus drivers should have more first aid and customer service training. Supports retaining cash for fares. Suggests more promotion of using public transport, e.g. bus trip 'deals' where an activity is included in a promotion (family discounts at attractions), and as a safe way to travel.

- Peter Grant, Bruce Carnegie and Rachael Kawana on behalf of **Ahuriri Napier Age Friendly Advisory Group (sub 159)** focused on the public transport services and routes being age friendly for seniors, who are often dependent on public transport. Would like more clarity of information in relation to change-overs and timetables in real-time. Supports retaining cash for a transition over a period of time and a reduced Total Mobility scheme.

Nic Ganivet left the meeting at 11am

- Maria Neville-Foster (Sacred Heart College Principal), Liam Greer (General Manager Palmerston North Diocese), George Roberts (St John's College Principal), Lucy Laitinen (parent & Sacred Heart College old girl) on behalf of the Diocese of Palmerston North (sub 171) expressed concerns about proposed cuts to school bus services between Napier and Hastings, and the negative impacts this might have on public transport networks if expected to transport thousands of school safely every day. Transport challenges create equity and access issues for students.
- Mayor Alex Walker and Councillor Kate Taylor on behalf of **Central Hawke's Bay District Council (sub 174)**. Advocates for a trial of CHB-Hastings/Napier express peak time bus services and the need for a suitable funding model to be developed so the service can go ahead.
- **William Stacey (sub 176)** shared some photographs of old bus fleets to support his submission in support of the proposed new bus routes.
- Stewart Whyte, Marei Apatu and Kane Koko on behalf of **Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga (sub 162)** Accessibility to adequate public transport has impacts on the economic and social wellbeing of communities and has the potential to unlock access to employment, education, cultural activities, and well-being services. Propose new routes through Waipatu, Whakatu, Omahu, Paki Paki and Bridge Pa to Flaxmere where a transport hub could be established.
- Carol-Ann Guard on behalf of **The Voice (sub 161)** group of people with disabilities. The RPTP document is a challenging read for those with learning or sight disabilities and there's a need for better communication with these groups in all areas of public transport, particularly changes to services. Suggests that bus services should be extended to be between 6am and 9pm. It was suggested that a 'support person' travelling with a disabled person should have free fares.
- Walter Breustedt on behalf of **St Columbia's Havelock North Environment Group (sub 109)**. Submit that public transport needs a marketing strategy and more advertising (using same media as car industry) to compete with the alternatives (cars), including promotional campaigns. Suggests a 'real-time' bus timetable app as a cheaper option than display screens at bus stops. The advantages in terms of pollution (toxic dust) and emissions reductions should be part of the marketing strategy.
- The Chair acknowledged the staff for their huge efforts to engage with communities during consultation, particularly around the proposed new bus routes.

The meeting adjourned at 12.06pm and reconvened at 12.31pm with Nick Flack having left the meeting.

- There was discussion about points made by submitters around security, education, driver training, and alternative transport delivery methods, e.g. ride-share apps and community-led services.

The meeting adjourned at 12.39pm and reconvened at 12.45pm with Councillor Kate Taylor having left the meeting

- Eloise Mackay (HDC Community Connector) on behalf of the **Hastings District Council Disability Reference Group (sub 150)** shared a video of Hamish, who spoke to the submission. Hamish stressed that people with disabilities are totally reliant on public transport to access their communities and it needs to be affordable, safe and easily accessed. My Way, or a similar service needs to be retained as a better alternative than Total Mobility.

Nick Flack re-joined the meeting online at 12.53pm

- Ronald Wilkins (president) on behalf of **Grey Power Hastings & District Association (sub103)**. Wants a 7-day a week bus service to the airport, from Havelock North via Hastings and Clive. Suggests a direct route from Havelock North to Napier, not via Taradale & Hastings, and a peak time service from Waipukurau into Hastings.
- Dee Withers, Candace (CCS), Christine (CHB) and Michelle Lucas on behalf of **Age Concern HB and CCS Disability Action (sub 170)**. The current assessment process for the Total Mobility Scheme is not sustainable and would like to work with Council staff on an alternative. Shared a video of Waka Transport Western Bay, a community transport service provider and would like a to pilot a service in CHB as an alternative to the Total Mobility Scheme; seeking grant funding (through rates) to resource the Community Transport Working Group to continue its work and to fund the 2025-26 pilot.

Some issues for staff to cover for deliberations include:

- whether the policy/contract and KPIs provide for bus driver customer service training
- whether \$0 fares for support people travelling with disabled is viable
- Why the Hastings MyWay service was discontinued (1 July 2025) and whether there's a funding option for My Way or an alternative? Plus provide costing of a My Way service for Napier.
- A trial bus service in CHB with funding by HBRC in partnership with CHBRC.
- Establishment of a community transport role.

James Meffan and Reade Nikora on behalf of the **Ministry of Education (sub 180)**. School transport assistance is funded (\$260M last year) for rural and peri-rural areas. Rules (1920s) of appropriation include that students attend the closest state or state-integrated school where they can enrol, live more than a certain distance from school (3.2km for Years 1–8; or 4.8km for Years 9–13) and where there is no suitable public transport available. The Ministry removes services where improvements in the public bus service have been made. Staff at MoE don't have any discretion to make decisions outside of the Policy. Expressed support for the RTC writing to the Minister of Regulation to seek a review of the MoE school bus funding policy.

Api Robin offered a closing karakia.

Closure:

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1.43pm on Friday, 16 May 2025.

Signed as a true and correct record.

Date:

Chair: