

Chairperson and Community Board Members
ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD

29 NOVEMBER 2011

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

**SUBMISSION FROM THE ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD TO
GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ŌTAKI
PUBLIC TRANSPORT REVIEW**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report seeks the Ōtaki Community Board's approval of the submission on the Ōtaki Public Transport Review (see Appendix One) to be sent to Greater Wellington Regional Council.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION

- 2 The Council's significance policy is not triggered by this report.

BACKGROUND

- 3 In December 2010 Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) agreed to bring forward a review of Ōtaki Public Transport, as a result of the Council's submission on the changes to rail/bus services from Ōtaki to Paraparaumu.
- 4 In February 2011 new rail services commenced to Waikanae and, to cover the costs, Greater Wellington cut bus services between Paraparaumu and Waikanae. Passengers from Ōtaki now have to transfer from buses to trains at Waikanae to get to Paraparaumu.
- 5 Ōtaki residents were very concerned about this change and a letter from Mayor Jenny Rowan on 26 October 2010 to GWRC strongly reflected this. The one concession GWRC made as a result of the submission was to bring forward the review of Ōtaki Public Transport Services, which was not scheduled to occur at this time. GWRC set up a Reference Group in March 2011, consisting of Ōtaki Community Board members, the bus service operator and an Ōtaki commuter.
- 6 GWRC conducted an initial round of community consultation and received 114 submissions. They presented the resulting two options to the only meeting of the Reference Group, emphasising that there was no extra money in the budget and that the review was a rearrangement of existing services.
- 7 The options are now out for a final round of community consultation, with submissions closing on 11 December 2011, (refer to the consultation brochure at Appendix Two).

CONSIDERATIONS

- 8 The financial constraints facing GWRC public transport is acknowledged. The Government Policy Statement has restricted funding for public transport in the next 10 years. However, Ōtaki passengers now have a lower level of service as a result of the new Waikanae rail service and there is no service at all on a Sunday.
- 9 The Council has consistently stressed to GWRC the planned development and growth in Ōtaki and the associated transport needs. It has also been clearly stated that Ōtaki has the lowest level of access to private motor vehicles of the whole of the Kāpiti Coast District. Despite the relatively low number of users, many Ōtaki residents are reliant on public transport.
- 10 The initial survey asked if residents would be interested in paying higher rates to cover increased services but this suggestion was not supported by submitters.
- 11 The final consultation stage of the review offers two limited options:
 - Option A the weekday option, proposes removing some poorly used services and providing one service that goes through to Paraparaumu.
 - Option B the weekend option, offers *either* increased Saturday services and, as currently, no Sunday services; *or* fewer Saturday services and a Sunday service.
- 12 The current review fails to develop any strategic response to the transport issues that Ōtaki faces now and in the future.

Financial Considerations

- 13 There are no financial considerations.

Legal Considerations

- 14 There are no legal considerations.

Delegation

- 15 The Ōtaki Community Board has delegated authority to approve submissions:

7.18 Authority to review and approve any Community Board submission on issues within its area.

Consultation

- 16 The consultation is being carried out by GWRC.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 17 That the Ōtaki Community Board notes that this review fails to develop a strategic approach to the transport issues that Ōtaki faces now and in the future.
- 18 That the Ōtaki Community Board approves the draft submission on the Ōtaki Public Transport Review (see Appendix One of report SP-11-429) to be sent to Greater Wellington Regional Council, subject to any changes made by the Board.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

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ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix One: Draft submission to Greater Wellington Regional Council on the Ōtaki Public Transport Review

Appendix Two: Ōtaki Public Transport Review consultation brochure