



Waikato Community  
Transport Forum

# Notes from forum held 19 June 2023

## Via Zoom and at Community Waikato

**Facilitator:** Amantha Bowen, Community Transport Lead

**Note taker:** Sam Yells, Community Transport Coordinator

**Attendees:** Jenny Davis, Val Sparks, Jan Meredith, Brevyn Wright, David Wright, Ian Angus, Sarah Gibb, Ruth Rhodes

**Via Zoom:** Nicola Potou, Desiree Brown, Ann Deihl, Peter Boyce, Tracy Boyd, Linda Miles, Maurice Flynn,

**Apologies:** Bridget Doran, Sheryll Fitzpatrick, Gary Holmes, Marnie Goodman

1. **Welcome:** This session taking place both via Zoom and at Community Waikato. Amantha opened with Karakia.

2. **Notes from previous Forum held 20 March 2023**

- The highlight was confirmation of Community Transport Fund Policy.
- Bay of Plenty Council staff attended to learn from Waikato Community Transport sector how to get started with the programme that supports community transport in their region as they want to provide some funding in that area.
- Post cyclone issues and funding efforts were discussed.

3. **WRC Community Transport Fund Application:** Total of 14 applications, \$190,507 will be allocated.

The applicants applied for funding to help subsidise petrol, insurance, maintenance, wage, and support other general operation cost as they do not receive enough koha or donations to support their operational costs.

We will provide another update on how the funds were utilised.

Groups who didn't apply for funding cited the timing of when the submissions opened up, because they had just recently ended their financial year and had balanced that year already. They thought it would be better to allow other providers access to the funding at this time who might need it more than them.

Successful applicants will also receive an additional \$2,000 provided by the Road Safety Programme (our thanks to Jenny Davis and co). This is a one-time allocation to successful applicants to invest in road safety related initiatives (example: driver eye checks, health checks, and/or training). Any balance to be used towards the costs of providing transport for unwell members of the community to access health care. This contributes to safer journeys.

4. **Drivers using Hybrids/EVs:** Amantha and Sam will be looking to compile a packet of information around potential environmentally friendly vehicles and features to be aware of.

If you have done any research or have any tips or ideas on ideal vehicle models and dealerships to look into, please email us at [communitytransport@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:communitytransport@waikatoregion.govt.nz)

5. **Fleet Day Hamilton 2023:** A great opportunity for people to hear from industry-leaders on the challenges and solutions facing the transport providers. The theme of this year's conference is centered around road safety, sustainability, and fleet efficiency – underpinned by data and technologies. Tickets are \$120 but the Road Safety Programme has generously offered a free code to Community Transport groups!

When: 26th July 2023 | 8:00am – 4:30pm

Where: Claudelands Events Centre, Hamilton

For **FREE** tickets, Registrations can be made at this link: [Fleet Day Hamilton 2023 Tickets, Wed 26/07/2023 at 8:30 AM | Eventbrite](#) using the code we sent to those on our community transport email list under an email with the subject line “Notes from Community Transport forum held 19 June 2023”

For more details on the event visit: [Fleet Day Hamilton 2023 | EROAD New Zealand](#)

For other information about Fleet Day and/or Road Safety questions, you may also email: [Jenny.Davis@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:Jenny.Davis@waikatoregion.govt.nz)

## 6. Te Whatu Ora Update:

Taumarunui bus 2-year contract was renewed that will bring us up to 2025.

A request has been made to extend funding agreements between Te Whatu Ora/Waikato DHB and Community Transport groups through 2025. David Darling will be able to update us once a decision is confirmed.

Community Health Forums are held across territorial communities. This forum is an opportunity to inform the public about health updates and an opportunity for the community to say what their particular area of interest and concerns are in terms of health.

### Upcoming Health Forum dates

#### Hauraki

Thursday 6 July – 11am – 1pm

Richmond Villas, Richmond Villas, Richmond St, Thames

#### Waikato Regional Disability Hui / Whānau Hauā Forum (online)

Monday 17 July, 4– 6pm

#### Waitomo (online and face-to-face)

Thursday 20 July – 10.30am – 12.30pm

Ōtorohanga District Council Chambers 17 Manaiapoto St, Ōtorohanga

### Health Reminders:

- Check your expiry dates on Covid test kits! Warehouses are still stocked with and sometimes incidentally distributing expired Covid tests.
- Please get vaccinations for flu & covid, and a reminder of immunisations for whooping cough & measles for children because there are cases in the community.

**Boxes of Covid tests** available at Community Waikato, please email [communitytransport@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:communitytransport@waikatoregion.govt.nz) if you would like to request some for volunteer drivers. We can arrange for you to pick them up or else mail them to you.

## 7. Anything else

**Disability Parking tags** – CCS will approve parking permits for Community transport groups and while some groups have had them for years, others are only learning of this now. It's \$50 per permit and does seem like you can get more than one permit issued depending on the need.

Visit this link for more info: <https://www.ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz/mobilityparking/permit-for-organisations> and to apply for an Organisation permit, please contact Mobility Parking Office at 0800 662 7275 or [MobilityParking@ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz](mailto:MobilityParking@ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz)

**Total Mobility** is a nationwide scheme aimed at giving mobility options to people with disabilities. Waikato Regional Council administers Total Mobility throughout the region. The scheme provides financial assistance, giving registered users a 75 per cent discount on taxi fares up to a maximum subsidy. The user only pays the remaining 25 per cent of the fare to the taxi driver. People who use the scheme must carry a valid Total Mobility photo ID card to get the discounted fare.

If you would like more information or to pass along to others in your community, please visit this link: [Total Mobility – BUSIT](#) or contact [Maurice.Flynn@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:Maurice.Flynn@waikatoregion.govt.nz)

Since there was a lot of interest from providers at this session, Maurice will do a presentation on the Total Mobility (discounted taxis) and Accessibility (free buses) schemes at a future forum meeting.

### **Community Transport outside of health needs**

A discussion point was raised that there are significant needs in our communities for transport that extends beyond health care, and acknowledgement that many groups are not currently set up to provide anything beyond transport for health appointments. There is a desire to workshop this within the forum to determine how we might evolve our transport offerings, or otherwise identify solutions to support the quality of life and transport independence requirements of disadvantaged and disabled members of the community. We will look to organise something to tackle this issue as a group, in future.

### **8. 2023 Forum dates**

*18 September, 2023*

We are expecting a presentation on the 18<sup>th</sup> September from Jacksons on mobility/accessible vehicle solutions. Stay tuned, there may be a change to the meeting venue to accommodate this.

*4 December, 2023*

Please email through any agenda item suggestions to [communitytransport@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:communitytransport@waikatoregion.govt.nz)