Waikato Regional Rural Transport Forum MINUTES



- Date:
 7 September 2015

 10:00am 12:00pm

 Venue:
 South Waikato Sport & Events Centre, Mossop Street, Tokoroa
- Present:Sarah Gibb, Aroha Waetford, Josiah Teokotai, Moetu Togia, Karen
Stockmann, Andrew Bailey, Briar Hickling, Alan Turton, Adrienne Bell, Norm
Barker, Marjorie Roberts, Alison Flett, Fiona Green, Heather Robinson, Mick
Jones, Sina Tolovae, Andrew Robinson, Vincent Kuo, Bridget Burdett, Bill
Major
- Apologies:Greg Morton, Paul Keesing, Gerri Pomeroy, Paul Keesing, Dallas Honey, Kim
Jacobs, Kim Linklater, Ben Smit, Jo Carling
- Chair:Sarah GibbMinutes:Bridget Burdett

The Chair officially opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. Josiah led a karakia. A round the room series of introductions was undertaken. Sarah highlighted the new Community Transport website which is the online 'home' for this forum: www.waikatocommunitytransport.org.nz

Previous minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

South Waikato Urban Connector

Sina Tolovae and Norm Barker presented an update on the Urban Connector trial. The initial aim of the project was to address three issues:

- Transport within Tokoroa
- Transport between Tokoroa, Putaruru and Tirau
 - Transport between South Waikato and Waikato Hospital in Hamilton

The current trial addresses the first two points. Funding from the District Council is paying for a bus (contracted to Go Bus) to do a six-daily circuit around Tokoroa, and two return trips between Tokoroa and Tirau daily. The trial started in ?May? and has been amended based on community feedback. The buses take an average of 189 passengers per week (summary of Weeks 6-10) which is over a 100% increase on Weeks 1-4.

The goals within this trial relate to transport, health and communication. The trial includes communication available from the Tokoroa iSite.

Feedback from the community has been very positive, with several people saying that they are making trips that would not have happened if there were no service.

The Steering Group are investigating transport options to Waikato Hospital, which have not been addressed as yet.

Norm referred to a document from Canterbury Regional Council that summarises aspects of creating and operating a Community Vehicle Trust. Some of this information is already on

the Community Transport website. We will put the rest of Canterbury's information on this website also.

The Chair thanked Sina and Norm for their presentation.

Demographic change and transport

Bridget presented a summary of a presentation given at the recent Communities conference (July, Hamilton: <u>http://www.communitywaikato.org.nz/Conference+2015.html</u>) by her and Dr William (Bill) Cochrane from the University of Waikato. Bill's part covered demographic change in the Waikato region, with the following highlights:

- Overall, New Zealand in the 21st Century is coming to the end of natural population growth
- The Waikato Region will continue to grow, with differences within the region; some districts will grow and others will not
- Overall in New Zealand, 84% of Territorial Authorities will experience all of their growth in aged 65%

Bridget then discussed implications of these issues for transport, including:

- Transport decision-making is complex, with multiple organisations and departments within those, all dealing with different aspects of issues
- Social issues are not always considered in transport planning, and where they are, they are not necessarily valued or 'traded off' in a similar way to other issues such as traffic congestion or road safety
- Data such as 'household access to a motor vehicle' is readily available on the Statistics New Zealand website, but this is not a commonly used metric in transport planning

The Chair thanked Bridget for her presentation.

Waikato Regional Council Passenger Transport Update

Vincent Kuo provided an update. The contract for existing public transport services in the region is under review. New routes as outlined in the Public Transport Plan (available on the Waikato Regional Council website and on the Waikato Community Transport website, <u>www.waikatocommunitytransport.org.nz</u>) are likely to be operational by late 2016. The fare structure for these services will also be reviewed over the coming year.

Waikato Regional Council will continue to work with South Waikato on the Urban Connector trial and associated issues.

The Chair thanked Vince for his presentation.

The next meeting

The next meeting of the forum will be on the 7th December 2015 in Hamilton.

Any agenda items for the next meeting should be sent to Paul Keesing.

The Chair thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 12:15pm.