



Notes from forum held 18 September 2023 Via Zoom and at Classics Museum – Belair Lounge

Facilitator: Amantha Bowen, Community Transport Lead

Note taker: Sam Yells, Community Transport Coordinator

Attendees: John Rayner, Ngaire Holmes, David Wright, Sharon Hamilton, Val Sparks, Trudi Knight, Nigel King, Tricia Dawson, Alicia Leef, Nicky Patterson, Ian Angus, Jan Dench, Garry Stanley, Ollie Goulden, Sarah Gibb, Marnie Goodman, Norma Taute, Neil Collis, Carol Costello, Debbie Levien, Maurice Flynn

Via Zoom: Bridget Doran, Sheryll Fitzpatrick, Desiree Brown

- 1. Welcome:** This session taking place both via Zoom and at Classics Museum – Belair Lounge.
- 2. Overview of FY 22-23 WRC Community Transport Fund learnings and outcomes**
 - Increase the maximum grant from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per application
 - Recommendation to possibly increase the fund value from \$200,000 to \$300,000 per annum
 - Next application of CT Fund for FY 23-24 will open in November; decisions made in December.

3. Total Mobility

Total Mobility is a nationwide scheme aimed at giving people with disabilities mobility options. The scheme provides financial assistance, giving registered users a 75 per cent discount on taxi fares up to a maximum subsidy.

Total Mobility scheme is available in the following areas:

- Hamilton
- Taupō
- Tokoroa
- Waipa
- Tamahere, Newstead, Tauwhare and Matangi
- Morrinsville, Matamata, Te Aroha and surrounds
- Thames

For more information visit [Total Mobility – BUSIT](#) or contact Maurice.Flynn@waikatoregion.govt.nz

Accessibility concession

The accessibility concession enables eligible people residing in the Waikato to travel free on all BUSIT services that travel to, from, and within Hamilton, as well as on Te Huia.

For more information visit [Accessibility concession – BUSIT](#)

4. Mobility Parking Permit

Transport providers can apply for Mobility Parking Permit for organisations, it can be used when transporting people who meet the following criteria:

1. The person is unable to walk and always requires the use of a wheelchair. OR
2. Their ability to walk distances is severely restricted by a medical condition or disability and they require the use of mobility aids or experience severe pain or breathlessness. OR
3. They have a medical condition or disability that requires someone to support them, or close supervision so they can get around safely. They cannot be left unattended and may experience disorientation, confusion or severe anxiety.

Permit fee for an organisation is \$50 per year per permit.

While an Individual can receive a long-term permit that is valid for 5 years, organisations are must apply annually. The cost to an Induvial for a 5-year permit is \$50 and if over 90 years of age, it's free.

For more information visit [Mobility Parking — CCS Disability Action](#)

Action (Ollie): Seek to arrange a meeting with his manager and Amantha to discuss the potential of a policy change that better support community transport permit holders.

5. Te Whatu Ora update

Norma gave her apologies and needed to leave early, but passed along the assurance that there are currently no plans to cease renewing existing contracts with regard to health transport. She will keep us updated on any progress. See page 3 for Community Health Forum Schedule Oct-Nov 2023. Providers are strongly encouraged to come along as an opportunity to feed into the health interests of their communities, and to hear from others in their community on health issues.

6. CT Website and Brand refresh

We are in the process of updating the Waikato Community Transport website: [Mobility & Freedom in Waikato | Waikato Community Transport Forum](#). We would like to make the website more inviting and engaging for both transport users and for transport groups and stakeholders. We are being mindful as well of accessible web access and use.

Please contact us at communitytransport@waikatoregion.govt.nz for any feedback or ideas you may have about what the Waikato Community Transport website should contain.

7. Jackson Van Interiors Presentation on accessibility modifications for vehicles

The forum warmly welcomed Neil Collis, manager of “a company that’s been producing mobility vehicles for 30 odd years”, who shared his knowledge and understanding of the current rules we need to meet to produce safe conversions.

Neil answered several questions around models and conversion options, and was also able to step outside to discuss attendees’ shuttles in the parking lot.

Regarding fleet conversion to EV he recommended provider stick with external combustion systems for now, as the EV technology is a couple of years away from being accessible to the way our groups work. For example, converting an EV to an accessible vehicle is tricky but a European method of gluing in the floor will become available to NZ in 2024.

For other questions to Jackson Van Interiors you can reach out to T: 09 274 4427 or neil@jel.co.nz

A recording of today’s meeting can be found at (note that the sound is patchy) [Zoom Recording](#) Passcode: a*h7r4^Z

Next forum date: 4 December 2023 at the Classics Museum (and 2024 dates TBA)

Please email through any agenda item suggestions to communitytransport@waikatoregion.govt.nz

Community Health Forum Dates

Te Whatu Ora Waikato facilitates local community health forums every three to four months in a range of centres across the Waikato. These forums are open to the public and are an opportunity for Te Whatu Ora to hear from local consumers and social services on matters and activity of interest to the local community. Representatives from the Waikato team at Te Whatu Ora are in attendance, and the team provides brief updates on key matters of interest to the community.

Come along and share your knowledge and experience as we work together on these matters. For more information contact norma.taute@waikatodhb.health.nz

Next meetings and locations - in date order

Hamilton

Wednesday 4 October, 10am to 12pm

Te Rongopai Community Trust (Good News Community Centre), 3 Aintree Street, Nawton, Hamilton

Waikato Regional Disability Hui / Whānau Hauā Forum (online)

Monday 9 October, 4– 6pm

Te Awamutu

Wednesday 11 October, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Methodist Church Hall, 261 Bank Street, Te Awamutu

Raglan

Tuesday 17 October, 10.30am – 12.30pm

Raglan Town Hall, 41 Bow St, Raglan

Hauraki

Thursday 19 October – 10.30am – 1.30pm

Hauraki Resource Centre, 2 Mackay Street, Paeroa

South Waikato

Wednesday 25 October, 11am-1pm

South Waikato Event Centre, Mossop Rd, Tokoroa

Matamata - Piako

Tuesday 7 November, 11.30am - 1.30pm

Senior Citizens (Main Hall), 45 Canada St, Morrinsville

Waitomo

Thursday 9 November, 10.30am – 12.30pm

Les Munro Centre, 8 King Street East, Te Kūiti, Ōtorohanga

Ruapehu

Tuesday 28 November, 1 – 2pm

Senior Citizens Hall, Morero Tce, Taumarunui