



Neighbourhood Support Manawatū

4 May 2022

By email

To: Horizons Regional Council, transport@horizons.govt.nz

From: Aly Thompson, Chairperson, Neighbourhood Support Manawatū, Aly@nsm.org.nz

Submission to the Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2022-32

Dear transport team,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to your Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2022-32. I write on behalf of Neighbourhood Support Manawatū and the Manawatū Rural Community Transport steering committee to propose a change to the new / proposed transport units in Appendix 1: [establish a community transport service for the Manawatū District starting 1 July 2022](#).

In answer to the questions in the submission document:

1. What have we got right?

The inclusion of and consideration for regional and inter-regional services, and targeted services.

Our rural communities are already experiencing issues with access or ability to drive their own vehicle, many due to deteriorating health, resulting in subsequent challenges in accessing health care and essential services; increasing housing prices and low housing supply in urban areas have derailed the retirement plans of many of our older rural residents, who now can't afford to move closer to town; more recently, rising fuel costs are affecting everyone in our community, particularly those living rurally and in our areas most isolated from townships. Community transport solutions are needed to support our rural communities with these challenges.

2. What would you like to see changed in the draft Regional Public Transport Plan?

That the start date for "Regional services for Manawatu district", Appendix 1 p77, be brought forward to 1 July 2022, to include all towns and settlements within the Manawatu District within the service, and to begin the process to establish the service; noting that market research has already been undertaken and a full report and service proposal accompanies this submission.

The service we propose would operate daily, five days a week, offering pick up from a chosen address and transport to and from Feilding, with the ability to transport shopping and mobility aids. The service and proposed operation would have the



Neighbourhood Support Manawātū

capacity to transport up to 22 passengers per day. Our research shows that 335 people would use the service immediately or within five years.

Financial estimations in the report show that the service could be established for less than \$160,000, with annual operating expenses estimated at less than \$150,000 not including any revenue from ticket sales.

This service proposal would contribute significantly to objectives 1, 2, and 4 of the 30 Year Vision, and more specifically to policies 1.1-1.3, 1.6, 1.10, 2.5, 4.1, 4.4, and 4.5 of the Draft RPTP itself.

Please see the attached report for full details of the service proposal and financial estimations.

3. What do you think about where we are proposing to focus efforts over the lifetime of the plan?

While our research has focused on the Manawātū District as the area we service, we expect that other districts in the region will face the same or similar challenges within their more isolated communities, as in Manawātū. We request that higher priority be given to addressing these needs across the region, as according to our research these challenges are immediate.

We would like to note that our service proposal could be used as a pilot model and replicated to other districts, in the hopes of minimising the investigation and development process. We would be happy to support that process by replicating our survey and conducting it in further areas, or by providing other assistance as required.

Thank you for consideration of this submission. I will be more than happy to speak to it and hear any questions you may have. I hope we can maintain the momentum we have gained in the research phase of this project, and find a way forward with this initiative to provide a much-needed service for our rural Manawātū residents.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aly Thompson', with a long, sweeping underline.

Aly Thompson

Chairperson, Neighbourhood Support Manawātū

M: 027 259 1044 E: Aly@ansm.org.nz