

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	Public Transport Futures Media Stand-up
Date	23 December 2022
Briefing number	BRI-2681

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Direct line	Cell phone	1 st contact
James Caygill	Director of Regional Relationships (West Coast/Canterbury /Otago/Southland)		s 9(2)(a)	✓

Action taken by Office of the Minister

- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen by Minister
- ☐ Agreed
- ☐ Feedback provided
- ☐ Forwarded to
- ☐ Needs change [please specify]
- ☐ Withdrawn
- ☐ Overtaken by events

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23 December 2022

Hon Michael Wood – Minister of Transport

PUBLIC TRANSPORT FUTURES MEDIA STAND-UP

Purpose

This briefing provides you with information about the Greater Christchurch Public Transport Futures Bus Improvements programme, prior to the media stand-up on Thursday, 26 January 2023 from 10am to 11am.

Project funding and costs

1. Cabinet has agreed to approve funding of \$78 million for the Greater Christchurch Public Transport Futures Bus Improvements programme. This funding has been approved from the reallocated Northern Pathway funding.
2. The total cost to deliver this programme is \$237 million (P95 cost estimate) and is expected to be co-funded by Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council and Waimakariri District Council and may have some contribution from the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF). s 9(2)(f)(iv)
3. The approval of this funding now, but drawing down later, provides funding certainty to the parties delivering the programme and will encourage greater momentum in its delivery.
4. This programme is not a part of the New Zealand Upgrade Programme (NZUP), and the funding does not commit the Crown to provide additional funding. The Crown will not own assets from this funding contribution.
5. In addition to the funding announcement, the Transport Choices package has provided \$8 million towards public transport improvements on Gloucester Street and Eastgate, and NZUP has provided \$35 million for public transport improvements on SH75 Halswell Road.

Project features

6. The entire Greater Christchurch Public Transport Futures programme is expected to deliver the following over a five to six-year period:
 - approximately 100 more buses providing a greater number of seats to a greater number of locations at a higher frequency
 - 475 more bus shelters
 - 190 more real time display units providing accurate information on bus arrival times
 - approximately 22 kilometres of bus lanes improving bus reliability
 - park and ride facilities in Rolleston, Lincoln and Kaiapoi making it easier to access the bus network.

Project benefits

7. This programme presents an opportunity to improve the level of service for public transport services within the urban area via improved travel time, reliability and frequency of service and become a competitive alternative to travel by private motor vehicle.
8. This programme over a five to six-year period is expected to deliver a range of benefits including:
 - An increase in annual public transport trips by 3.5 million
 - decreasing the total private Vehicle Kilometres Travelled (VKT) on the greater Christchurch network by 19.7 million per year
 - emissions reduction by around 20,600 tonnes of CO₂ across the first two emissions budget periods (2022-2030 cumulative).
9. Reallocated Northern Pathway funding of \$78 million for this programme will help:
 - accelerate the delivery of the programme, which will speed up mode shift to public transport.
 - provide assurance that the accelerated implementation of this project is not seen as putting an even higher financial burden on residents already facing cost of living challenges.
 - remove barriers to the uptake of public transport and achieve mode shift in greater Christchurch.

Project context

10. Bus patronage in greater Christchurch has declined in recent years and remains significantly lower than pre-earthquake levels. The existing settlement pattern and growth trends, in combination with a poor level of service for public transport, suggest high dependency on private vehicles for travel would persist into the future. Such dependency will likely have a negative impact on carbon emissions or VKT reduction and will not contribute towards a well-functioning urban environment or provide genuine transport choice.
11. The Greater Christchurch Public Transport Futures programme partners formally endorsed the Combined Business Case in early 2021 as a strategy for public transport in greater Christchurch.
12. Initially, due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated fiscal constraints, an implementation schedule over ten years was agreed. Subsequently, given the urgency to proactively address growing VKT and emissions, elected representatives from Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury and Selwyn District Council agreed to Notices of Motion to investigate the acceleration of the project to around five to six years. Waka Kotahi has been very supportive of a more ambitious implementation timeframe, and the contribution it would make to achieving the sub-regional VKT reduction targets and improved transport choice.
13. s 9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]

Key messages

14. Key messages of the Greater Christchurch Public Transport Futures Bus Improvements programme include:

- It is a collaborative project between Waka Kotahi, Environment Canterbury, Waimakariri District Council, Christchurch City Council and Selwyn District Council to increase the uptake of public transport.
- It will improve public transport travel time, reliability and frequency of services and become a viable alternative to private motor vehicles.
- Is expected to deliver approximately:
 - 100 more buses
 - 475 more bus shelters
 - 190 more real time display
 - 22 kilometres of bus lanes
 - park and ride facilities.
- The programme will:
 - increase annual public transport trips by 3.5 million,
 - decrease total private Vehicle Kilometres Travelled (VKT) in greater Christchurch by 19.7 million per year,
 - reduce emissions by around 20,600 tonnes CO₂-e across the first two emissions budget periods (2022-2030 cumulative).
- The reallocation of Northern Pathway funding of \$78 million will provide greater certainty, accelerate delivery, and will not place a higher financial burden on residents already facing cost of living challenges.
- In addition to the \$78 million, the Transport Choices package has provided \$8 million towards public transport improvements on Gloucester Street and at Eastgate, and NZUP has provided \$35 million for public transport improvements on SH75 Halswell Road.

Risks

15. s 9(2)(g)(i)

16. Councils and media will have questions about how this funding will be used, what it means for council's local share and whether it will replace or add to this. Further work and discussions with councils is needed in early 2023 to determine this. Expectations will need to be managed with councils on their share of the extra funding.

17. There have been recent safety concerns at the bus interchange. This event could draw attention to this issue again.

You have received the following briefings on this subject:

- MIN-3822, Northern Pathway reallocation – information on Minister's list & Akoranga to Constellation, 7 March 2022
- BRI-2421, Reallocation of Northern Pathway funding, 18 March 2022
- MIN-3841 Northern Pathway reallocation – staged delivery of regional projects, 23 March 2022
- BRI-2420, Responding to the Greater Christchurch Partnership on Proposed Transport Investment Programme, 30 March 2022
- BRI-2430, NZUP Northern Pathway project funding options, 4 April 2022
- MIN-3856, NZUP Northern Pathway – follow up questions to BRI-2430, 13 April 2022
- BRI-2521, NZUP Northern Pathway – Walking and cycling options for the reallocation of funding UPDATED, 4 August 2022
- MINO-445, Regional active mode/public transport project summaries, 8 September 2022

Media stand up

18. The event will be located at Christchurch Bus Interchange, Colombo Street between Lichfield and Tuam Streets.
19. Speeches, media interviews and photographs will take place.

Key attendees to acknowledge

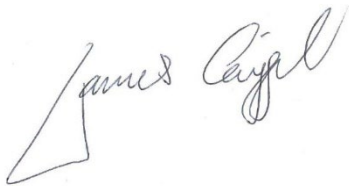
20. The key attendees invited for the event include the following:
 - Greater Christchurch Partnership Members
 - Phil Mauger, Mayor, Christchurch City Council
 - Peter Scott, Chair, Environment Canterbury
 - Dan Gordon, Mayor Waimakariri District Council
 - Sam Broughton, Mayor Selwyn District Council
 - all accompanying Chief Executive Officers

Media

21. We expect some national media interest and significant local media interest.

It is recommended that you:

1. **Note** the contents of this briefing.



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James Caygill

Director of Regional Relationships (West Coast/Canterbury/Otago/Southland)

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Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Transport

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