

MIN-4162 Public Transport during the FIFA Women's World Cup

24 May 2023

Providing an update on the provision of public transport during the FIFA Women's World Cup in the host cities (Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Dunedin).

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

- All host cities have public transport plans in place to support spectators and accredited officials travelling to and from matches at the respective stadiums. Bus driver shortages are also rapidly lessening around the country and are expected to be at a manageable level by the time the tournament starts.
- Auckland, Hamilton and Dunedin will provide additional special event buses for before and/or after matches, with Auckland having the capacity to scale up extra shuttle trains to/from Eden Park if ticket sales exceed anticipated forecasts. These special event services are in addition to regular timetabled public transport services.
- In Wellington, there will be double the usual train capacity on all matchdays. Based on current ticket sales, Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) estimates the additional train capacity will meet the spectator demand, including three matches whose kick-off or final whistle time overlap peak travel periods for which a sell-out crowd is anticipated.
- As Wellington Regional Stadium is close to the city centre, GWRC do not expect a significant need for additional bus services, as it is typical in Wellington for attendees to walk from city hospitality venues and hotels. Nonetheless, these services are highly frequent with latent capacity to accommodate spectators and usual commuters, and capacity will be bolstered through operators using the largest vehicles available on Wellington city routes on match days.
- These plans are subject to change as host cities are still monitoring ticket sales and finalising contracts with bus operators providing the special event buses.
- Further details on each Host City's plans are below.

Auckland

- Auckland Transport plans to implement special event buses as well as use existing Western Line rail services to service spectators travelling to and from Eden Park.
- The special event bus arrangements detailed below have not yet been signed off by Auckland Transport, the Host City organisation and bus operators. This is expected by the end of May 2023.

- North Shore special event buses – 25 to 50 special event buses before and after matches depending on the match type and anticipated ticket sales numbers.
- City Centre special event buses – 7 to 20 special event buses before and after matches depending on the match type and anticipated ticket sales numbers.
- East Auckland special event buses – 10 to 20 special event buses before and after matches depending on the match type and anticipated ticket sales numbers.
- Based on ticket sales, Auckland Transport expects up to 6,000 passengers per hour to travel to and from Eden Park, for both directions on the Western Line, before and after the match. I.e. Up to 12,000 passengers before and after a match.
- Auckland Transport can provide additional shuttle trains if required.

Hamilton

- There will be two special event 'night rider' services for spectators after the matches, which all conclude at night. The services will leave from the stadium straight after the match and service both sides of Hamilton on a loop route dropping people at bus stops along the way. This will be a shuttle type service where the buses run until the crowd is gone. There will be 4 buses servicing each direction of the route (8 in total). Buses would depart when full and can come back to collect more passengers after their first lap if needed.
- Standard CBD shuttle buses will run before and after the matches. Waikato Regional Council will encourage people to park in the CBD and take these shuttle buses or take a free city bus into the Transport Centre and walk to the stadium
- For the Fan Festival based at Claudelands on Saturday 22 June, Waikato Regional Council will run a free shuttle between the stadium and Claudelands starting at 5pm until kick off and then running again after the game to return the passengers to Claudelands.

Wellington

- GWRC has identified three matches where the kick-off time or final whistle time overlap peak travel times; NZL vs PHI (Tues 25 July, kick-off at 1730); USA vs NED (Thurs 27 July, kick-off at 1300) and a quarter-final (Fri 11 August, kick-off at 1300). These matches are expected to have a sell-out crowd of up to 33,000.
- Rail capacity will be doubled on all matchdays through running trains with more passenger carriages for a longer duration after the match and additional services.
- Planned rail maintenance on match days has been deferred by KiwiRail meaning trains will run as normal and no services will be replaced by buses.
- Bus operators are planning to use the largest vehicles available to increase capacity on Wellington city routes on match days.

- The frequency of these services is high with latent capacity to accommodate match ticket holders and commuters, especially as it is typical for many attendees to walk to the stadium.
- GWRC will develop a communications plan to highlight expected public transport service levels during the tournament to the public.

Dunedin

- A FIFA-branded double-decker special event bus will shuttle spectators between The Octagon and the stadium before and after matches
- Otago Regional Council intends to increase / maintain the service frequency in the evening on routes to 15mins from the Central City Bus Hub to the stadium (Forth Street terminus) and back, in the hours before and after matches.
- Dunedin City Council will also provide and manage a Transport Hub at the Forth Street terminus near the stadium, comprising stops for buses, taxi stands and mobility parking, as well as wayfinding information for visitors.