

National Ticketing Solution (incorporating Project NEXT)

Key points

- Waka Kotahi is the lead agency for the National Ticketing Solution partnership. Our role, together with our partners, is to procure the national ticketing solution on behalf of all public transport authorities and for Waka Kotahi to provide back office shared services.
- A streamlined payment system is aimed at increasing public transport use and is one of the many ways Waka Kotahi is looking to make public transport more attractive and to reduce dependency on car travel. It supports contactless payment for Public Transport and will help reduce/ eliminate cash providing for collection of fares in pandemic situations.

- section 9(2)(i) carry out commercial activities without prejudice

Background

Project NEXT is a partnership that aims to procure a national system for paying for public transport, based on EMV (Eurocard MasterCard Visa) payment platforms including credit/ debit cards, mobile phones, and paywave. An EMV enabled 'transit card' will also be available. The system will be an 'open-loop' account-based system, where daily charges are processed as one amount overnight. The integrated national system will replace Auckland's HOP, Wellington's Snapper, Canterbury's metrocard and the BEE Card (nine Regional Council's Regional Interim Ticketing Solution closed-loop card) with a single ticketing solution.

Likely questions and answers

What is the National Ticketing Solution (NTS)?

The National Ticketing Solution is a programme of work to establish a nationwide public transport ticketing solution.

It is made up of various projects including Project NEXT, which is procuring a ticket solution provider, establishing a Transport Ticketing and Payments Team to provide the shared service or back office functions for the solution, working on policy to align definitions and systems as much as possible (e.g. the definition of age for a child varies around the country) and establishing project teams within the Public Transport Authorities (PTAs) to assist with design and transition onto the National Ticketing Solution.

How is the Regional Integrated Ticketing Solution progressing?

The Regional Interim Ticketing Solution (RITS), covering nine PTAs, is now fully operational. There is some remedial work being progressed to complete all deliverables for the solution. RITS is an interim system to tide over the nine Regional PTAs until the National Ticketing Solution is in place. They have a contract in place to ensure continuity of supply until rollout of the national solution.

What is the budget for this work?

The budget to completion of the procurement phase is \$22.1 million of which \$4.97 million has been provided principally by Auckland Transport (AT) and Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC). Waka Kotahi is now funding 100 percent of the cost as the PTA funding has been exhausted.

What are the governance arrangements for this work?

Governance is provided by a Steering Group comprising members from Waka Kotahi, AT, GWRC, Environment Canterbury (ECan) and the RITS consortium. In addition, the Mobility and Payments Governance Group, consisting of Chief Executives from the above organisations plus the Ministry of Transport, is shaped to consider matters not able to be agreed by consensus at Steering Group. A Gateway review is to commence in the near future.

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