

Carol Gilbertson

To: gwynn@paradise.net.nz
Subject: RE: submissions to draft plans

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Submission to the Hawkes Bay Regional Council

Regional Passenger Transport Plan Draft

My submission is :

p.20, 4.2.1, Access distance. 90% of residences to be within 500m of a bus- stop.

I strongly urge the Council to move in this direction. I am overseas at present, so not able to verify the details of routes bus services currently take, but my impression in Napier is that the routes follow major roads and are often a long way from where people live. This is one of the main reasons for a low usage of bus services.

p. 24, 4.4.1, fares covering 40-60% of costs of service. p.24, 4.4.4, one fare system, and p.26, 4.4. 11, transfer between services

I ask the Council to consider a hop-on, hop-off system, using a fleet of small 8-10 seater vans, running in a figure-of-eight pattern in both Hastings and Napier, connecting the suburbs with the town centre and other key points. For example, in Napier, one part of the figure of eight could take in Greenmeadows and Taradale, the other Westshore, Ahuriri and the Hill. The buses could run at half-hourly intervals. Tickets could be for a day or half a day and as cheap as possible to encourage people to use the service.

I ask that this idea be investigated and reported back to Council.

p.28-29, Promotion and Publicity. I would like to commend the various proposals to promote urban bus services. As I am sure Council is aware, people need to be actively encouraged to use buses rather than private cars. There is a need to reduce carbon emissions if we are to avoid catastrophic global warming. In New Zealand, the greatest single contribution to global warming by private individuals is their use of cars.

I wish the Council success in persuading people to use buses rather than cars.

Part 1 pg 8, A final matter

You ask for a response to the request by Hastings District Council for support for a proposed sport park.

I am opposed to the Regional Council offering any support for this sports park for the following reasons :

1. It will duplicate the excellent facilities for soccer at Park Island.
2. It may be that Hastings needs to upgrade its sports facilities and replace what has been lost in the sale of Nelson Park, but I do not see this as the business of the Regional Council.
3. The proposal is unnecessarily grandiose. Adequate facilities could be provided at a much reduced cost.

I am overseas until June 18, so not able to present my submissions in person to the Council meetings.