Minutes of the Auckland Transport Board meeting (Open session)

Held on 18 December 2024 from 10.00am to 11.44am, at Auckland Transport, 20 Viaduct Harbour (1.04) | MS Teams

Board:	Richard Leggat (Chair), Julie Hardaker (Deputy Chair), Henare Clarke, Andrew Ritchie, Councillor Maurice Williamson, Dale Dillicar, Richard May, Raveen Jaduram, Councillor Chris Darby	
Executive Leadership:	Dean Kimpton (Chief Executive)	Items 1 – end
	Scott Campbell (Acting Director Strategy and Governance)	Item 20.2
	Karen Duffy (Director People and Performance)	Item 18
	Murray Burt (Director Infrastructure and Place)	Item 19
	Mark Laing (Chief Financial Officer and Director Corporate Services)	Item 17 and 21.1
	Stacey van der Putten (Director Public Transport and Active Modes)	Item 17
Governance & Management Attendees:	Andrew Downie (Head of Governance)	Items 1 – end
	Amandeep Kaur (Group Manager Health, Safety and Wellbeing)	Item 18
	Teresa Burnett (Group Manager Transport Safety)	Item 18
	Alan Trestour (Head of City Rail Link Delivery)	Item 19
	Andrew Bell (Group Manager Rail Infrastructure)	Item 19
	Andrew McGill (Group Manager Transport Network, Planning & Policy)	Item 20.2
	Claire Covacich (Principal Transport Planner Integrated Network Planning)	Item 20.2
	Rodger Murphy (Head of Risk and Assurance)	Item 21.2
	Ryan Marshall (Compliance Manager)	Item 21.2
	Liza Hayes (Board Secretary)	Items 1 – end
	Elisha Jayme (Board Secretary)	Items 1 – end

Item	Topic
Meeting Opening	
1.	**Karakia Timatanga** The Chair led the opening karakia.
2.	**Welcome/Acknowledgements** The Chair welcomed the attendees to the meeting.
3.	**Apologies** Nil.
4.	**Interests Register – Declarations/Conflicts** No new interests or conflicts were noted.
5.	**Update from the Chair** Nil.
6.	**Late Items for General Business** • **Item 22 Streetlight Maintenance, Renewals and Capital Works Contracts (FY25/26) –** the Chair indicated that due to commercial sensitivities, discussion of this item will be moved to the closed board meeting agenda later in the day.
7.	**Governance Forward Programme | Meeting date schedule** The Governance Forward Programme and meeting date schedule were noted.

8.	**Board Tenure and Committee Membership** The board tenure and committee membership were noted.
9.	**Key Correspondence with Stakeholders** The summary of key correspondence with stakeholders was noted.
10.	**Approval of Draft Open Session Minutes – 29 October 2024 and 26 November 2024** The Auckland Transport (AT) Board (board) approved the minutes from the meeting held on 29 October 2024, subject to an amendment to note Councillor Williamson's apology was due to a concussion injury sustained in the building's basement carpark immediately prior to the meeting. The board also approved the minutes from the meeting held on 26 November 2024.
11.	**Actions Register** • *2024Jun01:* **Chief Executive Open Business Report – Energy as an emerging risk** – executive leaders from companies in the energy sector have been invited to present on energy resilience and network change at the closed board meeting later in day. • *2024Oct01:* **Board discussion on Public Statements – Slippery pavers in Wellsford town centre** – management has proposed to replace the paver sections, with prioritisation of work to be agreed with the Rodney Local Board. Due to funding constraints, work will be completed over the next three years. The project will initially be funded by the Rodney Local Board Transport Targeted Rate, and then by AT capital expenditure or maintenance funding. It was recommended this item be closed. • *2024Oct02:* **Health, Safety and Wellness Update –** Management confirmed that AT ensures advertising designs for buses, including decals, are compliant with the appropriate safety standards set by the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA.) In terms of operational safety, higher levels of violence, threats and aggression have not been observed on buses with full side covering decals. Management corrected the statement made at the previous meeting regarding trespassing offenders on buses, noting only the New Zealand Police (Police) can enforce trespass orders. Bus drivers and transport officers (TOs) are not authorised to do so. AT has previously requested the Police to issue section 3 warnings in accordance with the Trespass Act. However, section 4 trespass notices, which prohibit a person from returning to a specific location for two years, are not suitable for public transport (PT) facilities or services. It was recommended that this item be closed.
12.	**Public Submissions Register** The Chair requested the register be updated to record management has initiated a follow-up conversation with Graeme Easte regarding his presentation at the 29 October 2024 meeting on simplifying the intersection of Dominion Road and New North Road.
Statements from Members of the Public	
13.	**Public submission on the 64 bus route and its impact on Walters Road residents – Dr. Isabel Moller and Natasha Tosswill** The board received the presentation of Dr. Isabel Moller and Natasha Toswill who expressed concern regarding noise and vibration disturbances affecting Walters Road residents due to bus traffic. Since August 2024, bus 64 route has been extended to St. Lukes to accommodate passengers impacted by the Outer Link route changes, resulting in buses passing through Walters Road every four to six minutes. According to the presenters, there is significant community opposition to this service, as traffic calming measures lead to increased noise and vibration when buses accelerate over the four raised platforms on the street. Additionally, the service runs from early morning to midnight. They proposed using the Dominion Road route and rail replacement buses up to Mt. Eden station as a solution. The Chair requested management to coordinate with Dr. Moller on possible solutions.

14.	**Public submission on Meola/Garnett Road roundabout and petition on Mercury Lane access – Gael Baldock and Muy Chhour** The board received the presentation of Gael Baldock who highlighted some buses were having difficulty navigating the newly constructed Meola Road/Garnet Road roundabout. Additionally, Ms. Baldock along with Muy Chhour, presented a petition regarding access to Mercury Lane and Cross Street. Landlords had expressed concerns that the changes implemented on these streets were hindering deliveries for businesses in the area. Ms. Chhour reported that just prior to the board meeting, she received a response from the AT's Principal Project Manager confirming the loading zones will be reinstated, which she noted was a positive outcome.
15.	**Public submission on cycling community's concern on lack of investment in cycling – Karen Hormann** The board received Ms. Hormann's presentation, which acknowledged AT's role in developing a transformative and sustainable transport system through the inclusion of various cycleways projects. She highlighted the benefits of active modes as a means of transport for navigating the city and noted the encouraging increase in the number of people cycling. As Chair of Bike Auckland, she conveyed the biking community's support for the integration of safe and accessible cycleways into the PT network and encouraged AT to continue prioritising this integration despite funding challenges.
16.	**Board discussion on public submissions** The Chair thanked the presenters and requested any follow-up actions undertaken on the issues raised be reported back to the board via the public submissions register.
Chief Executive Update and Standing Items	
17.	**Chief Executive Open Business Report** The Chief Executive spoke to the report and highlighted the following matters:
	• **New ways to pay -** the successful roll-out of contactless payments has seen a significant uptake, with 460,000 trips using this payment method to date. • **Pothole promise** - AT repaired 785 potholes by the end of November 2024, with 95% of these completed within response time targets. • **Body camera trials and Bus driver safety screens** - body camera trials for TOs are underway, and the installation of bus driver safety screens to reduce the risk of assaults on bus drivers commenced in late November. • **Ferry services reinstated and Eastern Busway station opening** - two key initiatives were rolled out ahead of their targeted completion dates – the full timetable reinstatement of ferry services following early completion of maritime workforce training, and the opening of the Botany Town Centre station due to expedited construction. • **Employee engagement**- strong employee engagement was highlighted through a recent survey. • **License Plate Recognition (LPR) fleet expansion and technology** – AT will be expanding its LPR technology fleet as it is deemed a safer and more cost-efficient parking enforcement method. It was emphasised the objective was not to increase the issuance of parking tickets but to support dynamic vehicle movement throughout the network. • **Temporary traffic management (TTM) road cones campaign** - the proactive cone clean-up campaign will be rolled out in the coming months. • **Council Controlled Organisations (CCO) Reform and Legislative change** - AT continues to engage with stakeholders amidst the process of CCO review and proposed legislative reform. • **Time of Use Charging**- updates will be provided to the board and elected members early next year on Time of Use Charging after draft legislation has been released to Parliament. AT's input on a Select Committee submission is anticipated to progress in Q1 2025.

	• **Weekly fare cap** - the uptake of the $50 weekly fare cap continues to increase. • **Local board satisfaction rate** – the local board satisfaction rate increased significantly, with 71% of local boards surveyed as either satisfied or highly satisfied. This result was an increase of 30% from the last survey, well above the target of 56%. The board discussed how farebox recovery has remained stagnant over several years and not rebounded to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels. Management attributed the challenge to four elements: inflation adjustment, market structure, cost escalation, and significant concessions, noting changes in market structure was the most significant factor for the stunted recovery. A report on PT subsidisation will be presented to the Transport, Resilience and Infrastructure Committee (TRIC) in March 2025. **Action:** *2024Dec01: Management to provide a report on the factors affecting farebox recovery with a timeline of key events that have led to the current status.*
18.	**Health, Safety & Wellbeing and Transport Safety Update** The board received the Health, Safety and Wellbeing update, noting the following highlights: • The court decision on the Ports of Auckland case highlighted the importance of having robust director oversight of health and safety (H&S) processes. Management noted there are lessons to be learned from the decision and a review of AT's H&S reporting, documentation and compliance is being undertaken to address any gaps. • Lead time tracking has been introduced to better monitor the time taken to initiate incident investigations. • There is close engagement with third-party providers to ensure factors causing Lost Time Injuries are taken into account and remedial actions are implemented to address these within the recommended timeframes. Updates will be incorporated into future reports. • Incidents involving violence, threats and aggression against staff continues to increase. Initial feedback shows body cameras are effective in reducing incidents. The board received the following key updates on Transport Safety: • Deaths and serious injuries (DSI) reported in the first half of the year continue to decline with fatalities declining much more sharply than serious injuries. • The Police is delivering to its targets for breath-testing and speed enforcement. • A programme director has been appointment to manage the work on implementing speed reversals prior to 1 July 2025. All roads have been assessed and a report will be provided to NZTA to facilitate the request for funding. • There will be engagement with local boards prior to implementation of speed changes in their area, however consultation is not required in the process. • AT is working with other agencies such as the Police and the Ministry of Health to obtain more statistics on DSIs with the aim to further refine the reporting on such figures and rectify any possible underreporting.
19.	**City Rail Link and Rail Update** Management provided updates on rail activities and the City Rail Link (CRL) project, highlighting the following items: • CRL – Link Alliance is monitoring the programme of work. Testing of the first train to run through the tunnel has been postponed to early 2025. • Rolling stock – a number of new trains are being manufactured with one batch approved for shipment. The first few units have been delivered and will undergo certification before being deployed.

	• KiwiRail is overseeing the ongoing rail network rebuild and works are progressing on the improvements being constructed in the Drury, Middlemore and Pukekohe stations. • While the timeline for the level crossing removal programme has been established, management is looking at segments that can be accelerated subject to funding availability.
Board Committees Update	
20.	**Design and Delivery Committee (DDC)**
20.1	**DDC Chair Feedback** The DDC Chair provided a brief introduction of the Draft Room to Move in the City Centre Plan, which the DDC had endorsed for board approval at its meeting on 12 November 2024.
20.2	**Draft Room to Move in the City Centre Plan** Management introduced the report, reiterating the plan focuses on making small changes to parking and use of kerbside spaces. An extensive engagement process with stakeholders has been undertaken and key parties have indicated their endorsement, however broader community support is critical to the successful implementation of the plan. Feedback from business owners indicated that the time limit on loading zones should be increased from five minutes to ten minutes. Management reported receiving similar feedback from courier companies and confirmed this change will be made. The board emphasised the importance of Eke Panuku's participation in presenting the Room to Move strategy to the public, as the owner of the City Centre Master Plan. Management confirmed they will arrange a coordinated roll-out and communications plan in collaboration with Eke Panuku and will report back to the board should there be any challenges. The board:
	a. Approved public engagement on the draft Room to Move in the City Centre Plan, subject to Eke Panuku's involvement in the process.
21.	**Finance and Assurance Committee (FAC)**
21.1	**FAC Chair Feedback** The FAC Chair introduced the reclassification of the Debt Management Policy from Tier 1 to Tier 2, stating the FAC is satisfied with the rationale for the proposed change. It was also noted that a proposal had been submitted to reclassify the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy to Tier 2. However the FAC determined oversight of this policy should remain with the board, as it is directly related to shaping the organisation's culture and provides an essential framework to support the code of conduct.
21.2	**Tier 1 Policy** The board noted the changes to the updated Debt Management Policy. The board: a. Approved the reclassification of the Debt Management Policy from a Tier 1 policy to a Tier 2 policy.
Non-committee Item for Approval	
22.	**Streetlight Maintenance, Renewals and Capital Works Contracts (FY25/26)** This paper was withdrawn from the meeting agenda due to commercial sensitivities and was transferred to the closed session board meeting agenda.
General	
23.	**General Business** Nil.
24.	**Closing** The meeting was closed at 11.44am.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 25 February 2025

Approved by the board as a true reflection of the meeting proceedings.

Richard Leggat
Board Chair