

## Minutes of the Auckland Transport Board meeting (Open session)

Held on 31 October 2023 from 10.00am to 12.30pm, at Auckland Transport, 20 Viaduct Harbour (1.04) | MS Teams

<b>Board:</b>	Wayne Donnelly (Acting Chair), Mark Darrow (Deputy Chair), Raveen Jaduram, Kylie Clegg, Councillor Andrew Baker, Councillor Chris Darby, Nicole Rosie	
<b>Executive Leadership:</b>	Dean Kimpton (Chief Executive)	Items 1 - end
	Jenny Chetwynd (EGM Planning & Investment)	Items 1 - end
	Mark Lambert (EGM Integrated Networks)	Items 1 - end
	Rodger Murphy (EGM Risk & Assurance)	Items 1 - end
	Stacey van der Putten (EGM Public Transport Services)	Items 1 - end
	Rodger Jones (EGM Business Technology)	Items 1 - end
	Mark Laing (EGM Finance)	Items 1 - end
	Andrew Downie (Governance Lead)	Items 1 - end
<b>Management Attendees:</b>	Andrew Mein (AFC Manager)	Item 17
	Luke Donald (Investigation and Design Manager)	Item 17
	Richard Harrison (Manager, Metro Optimisation)	Item 18
	David Stephenson (Tribe Lead – Grow PT Patronage)	Item 18
	Gareth Willis (Manager, Metro Contracts)	Item 19
	Greg Milner-White (Commercial Services Manager – PT & Operations)	Item 20
	Sarah Bryant (Group Manager ATOC)	Item 21
<b>Public Presenters:</b>	Felicity Lewis and Madison Perry (Equal Justice Project)	Item 10
	Julia Parfitt, Alexis Poppelbaum, Sam Mills, Gregg Walden (Hibiscus & Bays Local Boards)	Item 11

Scott Milne and Sarah Powrie (Ōrākei Local Board)	Item 12
Charmaine Vaughan (Meadowbank and St Johns Residents Association)	Item 12.1
Noelene Buckland (City Centre Residents' Group)	Item 13

**Apologies:** Henare Clark

Item	Topic
<b>Opening</b>	
1.	<b>Welcome/Acknowledgements</b> The acting chair welcomed participants to the meeting.
2.	<b>Opening Karakia</b> The acting chair led the opening karakia.
3.	<b>Apologies</b> Henare Clark.
4.	<b>Update from the Chair</b> The acting chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.  The acting chair noted that the incoming change in government is likely to have a substantial impact on Auckland Transport (AT). For example, he noted that the planned initiatives to revoke Three Waters and transfer water infrastructure assets back onto Auckland Council's (AC) balance sheet and remove the Regional Fuel Tax (RFT) are likely to impact AT's operational funding. He noted that there needs to be strategic and commercial alignment between the incoming government and AT about the future of transport in Auckland.
5.	<b>Late Items for General Business</b> There were no late items for general business requested.
6.	<b>Interest Register - Declarations/Conflicts</b>

	Mr Darrow advised that he had a conflict regarding the public submission by the Equal Justice Project (EJP) for the removal of fossil fuel advertising, as he has an interest in an automotive company.
7.	<p><b>Approval of Draft Open Session Minutes – 26 September 2023</b></p> <p>Ms Clegg noted that her comment on item 14 of the minutes was not accurately recorded and should be removed. The acting chair agreed that this amendment should be made and moved that the minutes from 26 September 2023 be approved on this basis.</p> <p>The AT Board (board) approved the minutes from the board meeting held on 26 September 2023 with the amendment above included.</p> <p>Moved: Wayne Donnelly, Seconded: Mark Darrow. Carried.</p>
8.	<p><b>Action Register</b></p> <p><i>2023December05</i>: the acting chair advised that this action is ongoing and should remain on the register.</p> <p><i>2023Aug01</i>: the acting chair advised that this action is ongoing and should remain on the register.</p>
9.	<p><b>Public Submissions Register</b></p> <p>The acting chair noted that this is a new standing item that is being introduced to the open agenda to track the progress of actions resulting from public submissions.</p>
<b>Statements from Members of the Public</b>	
10.	<p><b>AT Advertising Policy</b></p> <p>Ms Lewis and Ms Perry appeared on behalf of the EJP.</p> <p>Ms Lewis noted that EJP is requesting that AT amend its advertising policy to refrain from permitting or approving advertising on AT infrastructure, facilities or services that promotes petrol and diesel cars, airline advertising for flights or fossil fuel companies.</p> <p>Ms Perry noted that this request aligns with AT's mission and will encourage a reduction in Auckland's greenhouse gas emissions. She noted that this proposal has been carried out in other international jurisdictions such as the Netherlands.</p>

	<p>The acting chair thanked the group for their presentation and noted that EJP should speak to AC or the Transport Infrastructure Committee (TIC) about their proposal. He noted that management will be in touch to organise this speaking opportunity.</p> <p><b>Action item:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>2023Oct01</i>: the Governance Lead to organise a discussion between the EJP and AC and/or TIC about EJP's request to ban advertising that promotes fossil fuels on AT infrastructure.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Darby queried whether the responsibility for AT's advertising policy resides with AT or with AC. The Chief Executive noted that it is important that AT's advertising policy is aligned with AC's policy and settings.</p> <p>Councillor Darby noted that since AT's advertising policy was last reviewed two years ago, AT has developed an emissions reduction policy, which would support EJP's submission.</p>
11.	<p><b>Operational decisions that will start in October 2023:</b></p> <p><b>1) The reduction of Gulf Harbour Ferry services from 1 October 2023 to at least 1 January 2025; and</b></p> <p><b>2) Funding scenarios for connecting Vaughans Road to Te Oneroa Way</b></p> <p>Ms Parfitt, Ms Poppelbaum, Mr Mills and Mr Walden appeared on behalf of Hibiscus &amp; Bays Local Board.</p> <p>Ms Poppelbaum noted that there are no plans for a bus interchange to be developed at Whangaparoa under the O-Mahurangi Penlink project, which is a substantial issue for those that live in the area, and she advocated that a bus interchange be developed.</p> <p>Ms Poppelbaum noted that the ferry connection from Gulf Harbour to the city centre is a critical mode of transport for commuters in the local area. She noted that this ferry service has been heavily affected by ferry cancellations, which has lowered trust in the community, and she noted the importance of having a reliable service for this route.</p>



	<p>Ms Poppelbaum noted that the Long Bay structure plan has impacted Vaughans Road, which is a high-risk road with a dangerous intersection. She noted that funding for the improvement of Vaughans Road needs to be delivered in the next Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP).</p> <p>The acting chair thanks Ms Poppelbaum for her presentation and noted that the board is aware and sympathetic to the issues raised.</p> <p><b>Action item:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>2023Oct02</i>: Governance Lead to arrange a future update on confirmation of funding for the Whangaparaoa bus interchange.</li> </ul>
12.	<p><b>Seeking Board approval of the Gowing Drive project (Meadowbank to Kohimarama connection)</b></p> <p>Mr Milne and Ms Powrie appeared on behalf of the Ōrākei Local Board to discuss stage 2 of the Glenn Innes to Tāmaki Drive Shared Path project.</p> <p>Mr Milne noted that while AT has done an excellent job delivering the shared path, there are a lack of onramps to allow walkers and cyclists onto the pathway. He noted that the Ōrākei Local Board has acquired a property at Gowing Drive to create another onramp and design for this onramp has been completed. He noted that AT has the funding allocated for this onramp in the 2024/25 programme and requested confirmation from the board that this funding will be allocated to the onramp.</p> <p>The acting chair thanked Mr Milne and Ms Powrie for their presentation. He noted that the board was disappointed that the work on the Gowing Drive connection was deferred to next year. He noted that the board wants to confirm the funding to ensure that this connection takes place.</p>
12.1	<p><b>Gowing Drive Project by the Meadowbank and St Johns Residents Association</b></p>

	<p>Ms Vaughan appeared on behalf of the Meadowbank and St Johns Residents Association.</p> <p>Ms Vaughan noted that the bike path did not have adequate connections and that the Gowing Drive connection is essential to enable to local communities to access the pathway.</p> <p>Ms Vaughan noted that the Gowing Drive connection will assist AT to deliver on its emissions reduction targets.</p> <p>Councillor Darby queried how AT assesses emissions reduction within its project prioritisation framework. The Chief Executive noted that AT considers equity and climate change amongst other factors when considering what projects will receive funding.</p> <p>The acting chair thanked Ms Vaughan for her presentation.</p>
13.	<p><b>Feedback on Wellesley Street Bus Improvements proposals</b></p> <p>Ms Buckland appeared on behalf of the City Centre Residents Group (CCRG) to provide feedback on the Wellesley Street Bus Improvements.</p> <p>She noted that the City Rail Link (CRL) will reduce the need for the total volume of buses that currently operate through Wellesley Street. She noted that AT should prioritise maximising the capacity of the CRL to reduce the need for buses on Queen Street and Wellesley Street and generate cost savings by reducing the number of buses in operation.</p> <p>The acting chair thanked Ms Buckland for her presentation.</p>
14.	<p><b>Board Discussion on Public Statements</b></p> <p>The acting chair noted his thanks to the public for their submissions.</p>
<b>Standing items</b>	
15.	<p><b>Chief Executive Open Business Report</b></p> <p>The Chief Executive spoke to the report and highlighted the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary Traffic Management (TTM): workshops are ongoing to explore changing roles and co-design a transition plan to the new national TTM approach.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation redesign process: AT has delivered on its objectives of reducing bureaucracy, strengthening customer focus and embracing AT's role of kaitiaki through the organisation redesign process.</li> <li>• AT HOP card maintenance: AT HOP cards have a 10-year life and 32,500 active cards (used in the last six months) will expire between now and the end of 2025 requiring replacement cards.</li> <li>• Violence, threats and aggression (VTA): VTA continues to be a significant issue facing AT staff, particularly around Quay Street and the ferry terminal. AT will take a hardline stance to address any instances of VTA against AT staff.</li> <li>• Death and serious injury (DSI): the incoming government is likely to move away from the Road to Zero policy and AT will need to ensure it works collaboratively with government to reduce DSI numbers,</li> <li>• Reliability and punctuality: reliability and punctuality has continued to improve across the network for rail, bus and ferry services.</li> <li>• Trust, confidence and reputation: Aucklanders are feeling better heard by AT and AT's response to complaints is improving. This is a significant step in the right direction and enhances AT's social license to operate. The Chief Executive thanked management for their hard work in delivering this improved result.</li> </ul> <p>The acting chair acknowledged the improved structure and content of the Chief Executive's report.</p> <p>Councillor Darby queried what a "hardline stance" towards VTA looks like in practice. The Chief Executive noted that this will include increased advocacy with the New Zealand Police and Central Government and taking a firmer stance on how AT deals with incoming communications from the public.</p> <p>Councillor Darby noted that the removal of half price fares (as indicated by the incoming government) is likely to create a significant negative reaction from the public. The Chief Executive agreed that this does create a reputational risk for AT but noted that AT does not control the funding parameters.</p> <p>Mr Darrow noted his thanks to management for delivering above target for the punctuality and reliability metrics.</p>
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	<p>The board:</p> <p>a) Noted the information provided in the report.</p> <p>Moved: Wayne Donnelly, Seconded: Mark Darrow. Carried</p>
<b>Items for Approval</b>	
16.	<p><b>Board Committee Membership Review</b></p> <p>The acting chair introduced the report and noted that the meeting represented the final engagement of Ms Clegg's tenure with the board. He noted that Ms Clegg's work has been hugely appreciated by both the board and management and thanked her for her dedicated service to AT.</p> <p>Councillor Darby noted that the current workload is not shared evenly amongst the board members and suggested that he should join the Safety Committee. The acting chair thanked Councillor Darby for his comment and accepted this suggestion.</p> <p>Ms Rosie noted that Mr Mutton's role as her delegate on the Regional Transport Committee board should be formalised. Mr Darrow noted that this would require an amendment to the Regional Transport Committee charter which would require further consideration and review.</p> <p>The board:</p> <p>a) Approved the proposed membership changes to the Design and Delivery Committee, Finance and Assurance Committee, People and Culture Committee and Safety Committee as outlined in the report, including the addition of Councillor Darby as a member of the Safety Committee.</p> <p>b) Noted the retirement of Ms Clegg as a director of the board and thanked her for her contribution.</p> <p>Moved: Wayne Donnelly, Seconded: Raveen Jaduram. Carried</p>
17.	<p><b>Wellesley Street Bus Improvements (WSBI)</b></p>



	<p>The Executive General Manager (EGM) Planning and Investment introduced the report. She noted that the WSBI project aims to provide the infrastructure required to support forecast growth of demand for public transport (PT) in midtown Auckland.</p> <p>The acting chair queried whether the presentation from the CCRG at today's meeting impacted the findings of the report. Mr Mein noted that the presentation is complimentary to the report and has no significant impact on the recommendations. He noted that most people coming into the city centre will arrive by bus and there remains a need for two modes of PT.</p> <p>Councillor Darby queried why the Detailed Business Case (DBC) is not attached to the report or included for review by directors in Boardbooks. The EGM Planning and Investment noted that management decided not to include the DBC because of its substantial size, being approximately 500 pages in length.</p> <p>Councillor Darby noted that this project is funded by the RFT and asked why the project fell outside of prioritised funding in the current annual capital budget. The EGM Planning and Investment noted that management is waiting until the outcome of the RLTP process is finalised.</p> <p>The acting chair requested a revised recommendation that reflected that the board had not reviewed the full DBC.</p> <p>The board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Approved the summary of the Wellsley Street Bus Improvements Detailed Business Case, including the recommended option and delivery staging to deliver safety upgrades, emission reductions, and mode shift to progress implementation of the Transport Emissions Reduction Plan, bus priority measures and connected cycling facilities along Wellesley Street in the central city.</li> <li>b) Approved a budget of \$26.7 million from the Regional Land Transport Plan (2021-2031) Midtown Bus Improvements budget of \$132 million to deliver the capital works for Stage One.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c) Noted that while outside the prioritised annual capital budget, this is one of the 11 projects approved by the board, in August 2023, to continue subject to ensuring overall capital expenditure remains within the annual budget.</li> <li>d) Delegated to the Chief Executive to finalise and approve a procurement plan and to execute physical works contracts over \$20 million for Stage One within the total budget envelope of \$26.7 million.</li> </ul> <p>Moved: Wayne Donnelly, Seconded: Councillor Darby. Carried.</p>
18.	<p><b>Public Transport Growth Plan (PTGP)</b></p> <p>The EGM Public Transport Services introduced the report.</p> <p>The EGM Public Transport Services noted that the PTGP is designed to win back previous customers and attract new customers by making PT easier to navigate. She noted that the PTGP will consolidate projects across several focus areas and sets out a practical and achievable programme for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years to continue to grow Auckland's PT patronage.</p> <p>Ms Rosie noted that the National Ticketing System will impact the funding situation as it will provide funding for several areas that are currently marked as unfunded.</p> <p>Councillor Baker noted there is no mention of local boards in the report and emphasised the importance of working closely with local boards to grow PT patronage. Mr Harrison noted that there is one initiative in the PTGP about working with local boards but accepted that this is an area that can be improved.</p> <p>Councillor Baker queried how AT can demonstrate innovation in PT planning to attract new customers and generate growth for PT. Mr Harrison noted that management is exploring new initiatives such as encouraging commuters to use alternate services.</p> <p>Mr Darrow noted that the PTGP contains a vast number of initiatives, and that management will need to focus on the initiatives that matter the most.</p>



	<p>He also noted that management often refer to pre-COVID-19 pandemic patronage figures when assessing performance and queried the assumptions that management are making about future customer behaviour. Mr Harrison noted that management is assuming is that working from home is a sustained and long-term trend, which will have a major impact on PT growth.</p> <p>Ms Clegg queried why management is not taking a bolder approach to its initiatives for growth on the bus network. The EGM Public Transport Services noted that management is taking a holistic view of the network and that considerable work is underway in the bus programme improvement area.</p> <p>Ms Rosie noted that it would be useful to see the initiatives presented in a matrix format. The EGM Public Transport Services endorsed this suggestion.</p> <p>The acting chair queried which of the initiatives under the PTGP are most important. The EGM Public Transport Services noted that the bus priority initiatives, such as reducing journey times, are critical.</p> <p>Councillor Darby noted that the park and ride for the Eastern Busway may be inconsistent with AT's parking strategy. The EGM Public Transport Services noted that the park and ride is a key enabler for ensuring commuters are integrated into the bus network and that this approach has been endorsed by the local community.</p> <p>Councillor Darby noted that updates on the PTGP should be presented to the board monthly to give the board visibility of the progress being made.</p> <p>The board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Approved the Public Transport Growth Programme and the initiatives being included in the programme for delivery during FY 24/25, subject to the following conditions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. initiatives with funding allocated within the FY24 budget are prioritised for delivery; and</li> <li>ii. additional funding is secured through reallocation of existing budgets or Auckland Council for initiatives that are prioritised and are currently unfunded.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
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	<p>Moved: Wayne Donnelly, Seconded: Mark Darrow Carried.</p>
<b>Items for Noting</b>	
<p>19.</p>	<p><b>Ferry Services Update</b></p> <p>The EGM Public Transport Services introduced the report.</p> <p>The EGM Public Transport Services noted that management has been working closely with Fullers Group Limited (Fullers) to seek solutions to address ferry service performance. She noted that Fullers has experienced difficulty in retaining and attracting enough qualified marine personnel to provide timetabled services, which has led to service delivery issues.</p> <p>The acting chair queried how management can increase the revenue of ferry services such that ferry service providers do not require public subsidies to operate. The EGM Public Transport Services noted that fares have not increased in line with inflation and fuel cost increases, which is impacting the sustainability of the ferry services.</p> <p>Ms Rosie noted that ferry services offer resilience and that subsidising a ferry service can be cheaper than building new roading networks.</p> <p>Councillor Darby noted the poor state of Auckland's wharf infrastructure, and that there will likely be a large renewal cost for wharfs in the future.</p> <p>Councillor Baker queried whether there are sufficient ferry services for some routes such as Half Moon Bay and Gulf Harbour. The EGM Public Transport Services noted that AT are monitoring ferry service operations to ensure adequate services are provided.</p> <p>The acting chair asked the EGM Public Transport Services to conduct a review of the escalation clauses in all public transport contracts and report back to the board.</p> <p><b>Action item:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023Oct03: EGM Public Transport Services to conduct a review of the escalation clauses in all public transport contracts and report back to the board.</li> </ul>



	<p>Councillor Darby noted that there have been several recent ferry cancellations due to cruise ship delays. He noted that management should discuss with the Harbourmaster the opportunity to define the arrival periods for cruise ships more precisely.</p> <p>The board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Noted this report.</li> <li>b) Noted an update on this matter will be presented to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee at its 16 November 2023 meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Moved: Wayne Donnelly, Seconded: Mark Darrow. Carried.</p>
20.	<p><b>Safety Business Report</b></p> <p>The EGM Public Transport Services introduced the report.</p> <p>She highlighted that Deaths and Serious Injuries (DSI) figures are still high and that 46% of DSI is comprised of vulnerable road users (motorcyclists, pedestrians and cyclists). She noted that management has been working in close collaboration with the New Zealand Police to determine a strategy to reduce DSI figures.</p> <p>The acting chair queried whether there is any correlation between motorcycle accidents and the state of the roading network. The EGM Public Transport Services noted that the main factor leading to motorcycle accidents was risky driving behaviour.</p> <p>Councillor Baker commended management for the support provided to train drivers who experience traumatic collisions with pedestrians and other users.</p> <p>Councillor Darby noted his concern that AT is placing efficiencies above safety and queried how management is ensuring that safety is paramount in decisions. The EGM Public Transport Services noted that management is putting safety at the front and centre of key performance indicators and culture of the organisation.</p> <p>The board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Received this report.</li> </ul>

	<p>Moved: Wayne Donnelly, Seconded: Councillor Darby. Carried.</p>
21.	<p><b>2023 Weather Response Recommendations</b></p> <p>Ms Bryant introduced the report.</p> <p>Ms Bryant noted that she was seeking endorsement from the board of the recommended next steps to establish an emergency management improvement programme and for the Auckland Transport Operation Centre (ATOC) Joint Management Board to govern the progress and implementation of the key recommendations.</p> <p>The acting chair commended the report and queried whether the rain radar operated by AC's healthy waters team was being used by ATOC. Ms Bryant advised that it was not.</p> <p>The board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Endorsed the plan to address the recommendations and findings from the weather event debrief reports for 2023.</li> </ul> <p>Moved: Wayne Donnelly, Seconded: Councillor Baker. Carried.</p>
<b>General</b>	
22.	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p>None noted.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 12.46pm.</p>
<b>Next meeting: Tuesday 28 November 2023</b>	
<b>Items for Noting (no discussion)</b>	
23.	<p><b>National Ticketing Solution and Open Loop Programme Update</b></p> <p>The board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Noted the progress and status of the three AT programmes of work that combined lead to the NTS.</li> <li>b) Noted that Audit and Risk are organising an Independent Quality Assurance (IQA) report as requested by the board.</li> </ul>



	Moved: Wayne Donnelly, Seconded: Mark Darrow Carried.
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Approved by the board as a true reflection of the meeting proceedings.

Wayne Donnelly  
Acting Board Chair

