

We wish to advise that Council have adopted the Regional Public Transport Plan 2022-32. An electronic version of the Plan can be viewed on Horizons website [here](http://www.horizons.govt.nz) (www.horizons.govt.nz).

Copies of the Plan can be viewed at the following Horizons Regional Council offices:

- Palmerston North (11 Victoria Avenue).
- Whanganui (181 Guyton Street).
- Woodville (Cnr Tay and Vogel (SH2) Streets).
- Marton (19-21 Hammond Street).

Following hearings on 9 June, the hearing panel considered the points raised through submissions at their deliberations on 20 June. A number of changes were made to the Plan in response to matters raised by submitters. At a high level the changes include:

- An increased focus on passenger rail opportunities, with additional wording in section 4.4 of the Plan, a new action under policy 1.5 to revive passenger rail. These changes were made to reflect the strong desire for frequent and reliable passenger rail services to return to our region;
- Provision for investigation of public transport connections with the Wairarapa, Waikato and Taranaki regions;
- Incorporation of feedback from the Manawatū community about enhanced rural services and square to square connections with Palmerston North;
- Raising our target for public transport patronage. The Plan now seeks to increase patronage by 300% by 2032;
- Strengthening of our approach around undertaking an investigation of public transport needs and opportunities at a region-wide scale;
- Providing for more bike and micro-mobility integration with our public transport network;
- Ensuring comfort is a key part of delivering public transport services.

In addition to the changes above (which address some of the matters raised in your submission) please see the Committee's response to the remaining points raised:

- request: Consideration for funding to be put towards subsidising public transport and improving education and awareness rather than decarbonising. Response: Decarbonisation of the public transport fleet is required through central government. Consequently, Council is required to meet these targets or risk being subject to review proceedings or losing government funding. To that end, Council must pursue decarbonisation. Regarding subsidising public transport, officers advise that RPTP policy 5.2 lists a range of concessions that Council subsidises public transport for.
- Request: Free fares for both students and community services card holders. Response: Policy 5.2 provides for subsidised fares for these groups and 5.5 enables groups to enter into a free access scheme

Thank you again for taking the time to submit and speak at the hearings. If you have any questions about the Plan, please reply to this email or call 0508 800 800 and ask to speak to a member of the transport team.