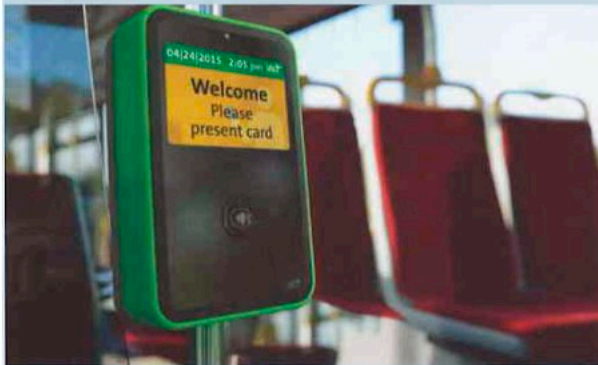


May 2017

CIRCULAR



INIT ticketing will be used initially by regional councils nationwide



An older bus shelter in Brooklyn, Wellington

BAY OF PLENTY

BETTER TICKETING ON THE WAY

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council is set to introduce a new ticketing system in mid-2018. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council is one of nine New Zealand regional councils that worked together to secure the new system. After competitive tendering, the ticketing contract has been awarded to INIT, an international transport technology provider with more than 30 years' experience worldwide. The new tag-on, tag-off card system will be rolled out by June next year, on the public transport networks administered by the councils.

The system will be in place in the nine regions for five years while a longer-term solution is developed by all councils, NZTA and Auckland Transport.

The nine participating councils are: Northland Regional Council, Waikato Regional Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Horizons Regional Council, Hawkes Bay Regional Council, Taranaki Regional Council, Nelson City Council, Otago Regional Council and Invercargill City Council.

Consortium governance group chairman Mike Garrett, who is the Waikato Regional Council chief financial officer, said the councils had worked together as a consortium to secure the new system, to replace the current ageing ticketing technology. Working together to gain a new provider had meant "cost savings for our ratepayers" and would also bring "big benefits" for passengers, he said. The new system, he said, would also produce "rich information" about how passengers travelled on the network

WAIKATO

MORE BUSES ON ROADS

Growth in the region and user demand has seen the regional bus fleet upgraded. Waikato towns are set to benefit from a \$5.4 million Go Bus investment into its service including 11 new 49-seater buses. Morrinsville, Paeroa, Te Aroha, Raglan, Ngaruawahia and Huntly are the key routes for the new fleet. The new buses feature bike racks, free wifi, USB chargers and CCTV cameras.

SCHOOL BUSES REPRIEVE

Eight out of 10 Waikato school bus routes earmarked for withdrawal in 2018 will continue to be provided by the Ministry of Education following a review involving the ministry, affected schools, NZTA and Waikato Regional Council. The buses bring pupils from outlying areas into special character schools in Hamilton. The Ministry signalled the withdrawal of the 10 Ministry-funded routes by next year on the basis that suitable public transport services may be available. The joint review explored the practicality of the alternative routes for students and for eight of the 10 routes it was agreed that the most effective option was to retain the current school bus services.

TAUPO

LOCAL FEEDBACK CALLED FOR

Taupo bus services are due to be tendered. Currently, the Taupo Connector bus runs six days a week around the town, provided for under Waikato Regional Council-administered contracts. As part of the pre-tender process, the Regional Council and Taupo District Council has recently conducted a public survey on bus times and routes, destinations and catering for tourists.

WELLINGTON

NO SHELTER GIVEN

Greater Wellington Regional Council has not installed any new bus shelters so far this financial year, despite its goal of having 30 new shelters in place during that time. The council identified a need for 162 new bus shelters across the region in February last year. So far, just 15 of those have been built. But the council says it is on track to hit its 2016-17 target, with 13 new bus shelters due to be installed before the end of this month and another 17 to be installed by June. The council says the reason no shelters had been installed during the first nine months of the financial year was because the council had focused on replacing existing shelters across the region. They say it takes very little time to build brand new shelters, but the installation process can be held up by neighbourhood consultation, checking sites for suitability and, in some cases, applying for a resource consent, according to the council.

NELSON

TRIAL REJECTED

The Nelson-Tasman Regional Transport committee has rejected a request for a trial of a new express bus service between Wakefield and Nelson. Support for the proposed bus route gathered momentum earlier this year when its proponents presented a 1000-signature petition asking for a trial to the Tasman District Council. Although the transport committee rejected the request, it is likely the council will conduct a feasibility study on the proposal. The council said that though the proposal was well-supported in the petition, the service would need to have "a point of difference" to make it attractive to commuters.