BETTER TRAVEL CHOICES

Taranaki Regional Council

HAVE YOUR SAY

On the future of transport in Taranaki

THE EASIEST WAY TO HAVE YOUR SAY IS ONLINE AT TRC.GOVT.NZ/TRANSPORT

Help us shape the future of active and public transport

Public consultation on the two documents that make up the Better Travel Choices for Taranaki is taking place from Monday 18 September to Sunday 29 October 2023.

Better Travel Choices for Taranaki sets out a series of ideas and options that respond to "The Road Ahead" regional transport conversation earlier this year.

We want to have more people travelling by options other than the private car for more of their journeys and to succeed we must:

- Support an active (walking, cycling and other active travel) and public transport system that provides safe, healthy and environmentally sustainable options for a range of journeys.
- Deliver a bus network that you can rely on, and which gives additional choice for more people, for a wider range of journeys.
- Provide a public transport system that is well-integrated with other modes of transport.

Therefore, we need your assistance and are asking for feedback on the proposed Regional Public Transport Plan, including possible improvements to the bus network.

We also want your feedback on the proposed Better Travel Choices for Taranaki strategy, around proposals to improve safe journeys for all pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users.

The full plan documents are available on our website trc.govt.nz.

Please feel free to respond to the questions and give us your feedback as your views are crucial to shaping the future of active and public transport in our region.

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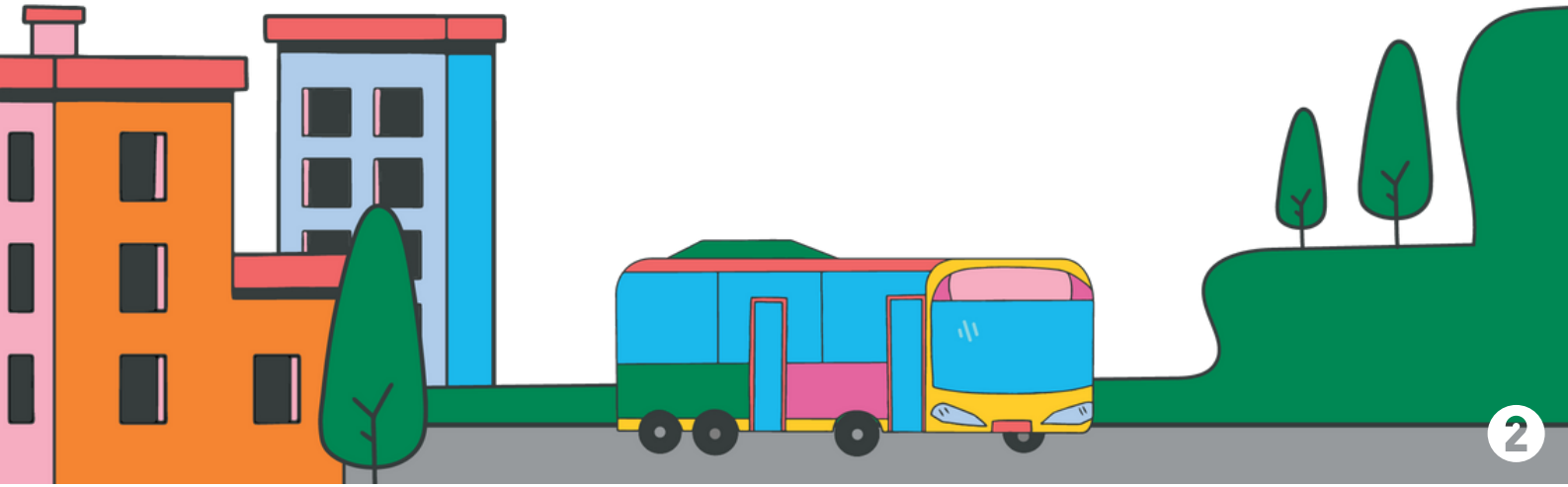


We hear you Taranaki

Things we heard during the March 2023 "The Road Ahead" consultation:

- 76% of responses were supportive of a goal to reduce the number of car journeys by 25% by 2033.
- More bus routes and services ranked as the highest single desired transport improvement, with better road surfaces second and improved cycling options third.
- 80% of respondents would like to travel more actively (through walking, cycling etc) as part of their daily lives.
- There's a concern about road safety in the region, and many people are willing to trade off faster travel journey times for improved levels of safety.
- Many people would start using the bus, or use it more, if timetable frequencies were improved.
- Many people were in favour of further investigation into a future passenger rail service and inter-regional bus services.

Whilst we have many great bus routes and services around Taranaki, there are still several barriers to active and shared travel:

- Concerns about road safety, especially at busy intersections.
- Lack of joined-up routes, with missing links.
- Challenges for those with mobility and accessibility issues.
- Poor accessibility to bus stops.
- Infrequent bus routes which are coverage-based and don't always go where people need them to.

OUR VISION

To increase the wellbeing and environmental sustainability of Taranaki communities, by enabling people to safely and conveniently travel by public transport and active travel.

Every member of society, irrespective of their personal circumstances and level of mobility, will be able to safely travel to meet their needs and wants.

Low-traffic school streets will enable our children to experience arrival and departure in an environment that welcomes their participation in both education and play.

OUR VISION EXPLAINED

BETTER TRAVEL CHOICES

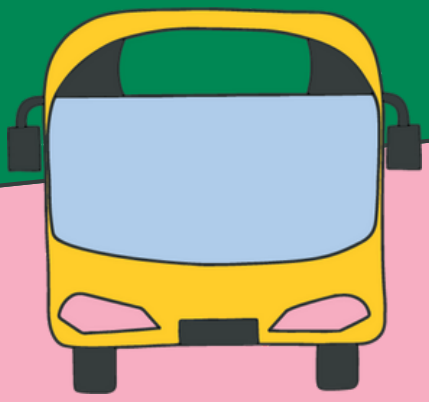
TARANAKI

A regional active and shared travel network, bound together by integrated multi-modal and service hubs, will enable local people and visitors to travel across the region confidently and sustainably for work, education, shopping and leisure.

Our local streets will be spaces and places that are safe, shaded, and sustainable hubs of social and community activity, where people from all walks of life and cultures can connect to share experiences face to face.

An accessible, integrated and customer-focused public transport system that enhances our wellbeing and environment, and becomes the preferred mode of transport within and between urban areas.

Our objectives

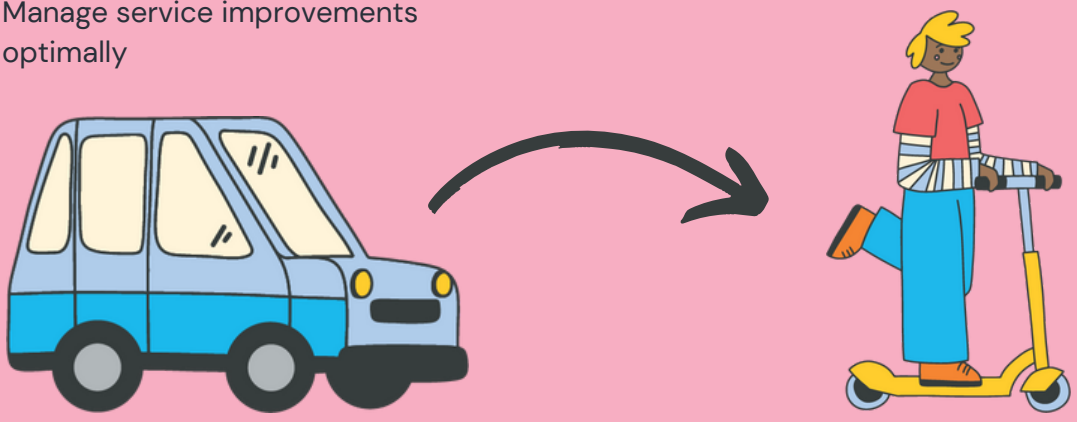


Public transport – bus network

- Improve public transport accessibility and equity
- Improve customer experience of the public transport system
- Improve environmental and economic performance
- Deliver affordable and value for money services
- Manage service improvements optimally

Active travel – walking & wheeling

- Improve personal safety
- Deliver high quality networks
- Improve physical and mental health
- Support economic development through tourism



Mode shift – from cars to active and public transport

- Increase use of active, public and shared transport
- Reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions
- Improve local air quality
- Reduce car traffic and congestion

How we can change our bus services

Make timetables more regular and easier to understand.

Ensure buses run on-time, not early or late.

Increase frequency of services, so people have less time to wait.

Make some routes more direct, for faster journeys.

Fill transport gaps in rural areas.

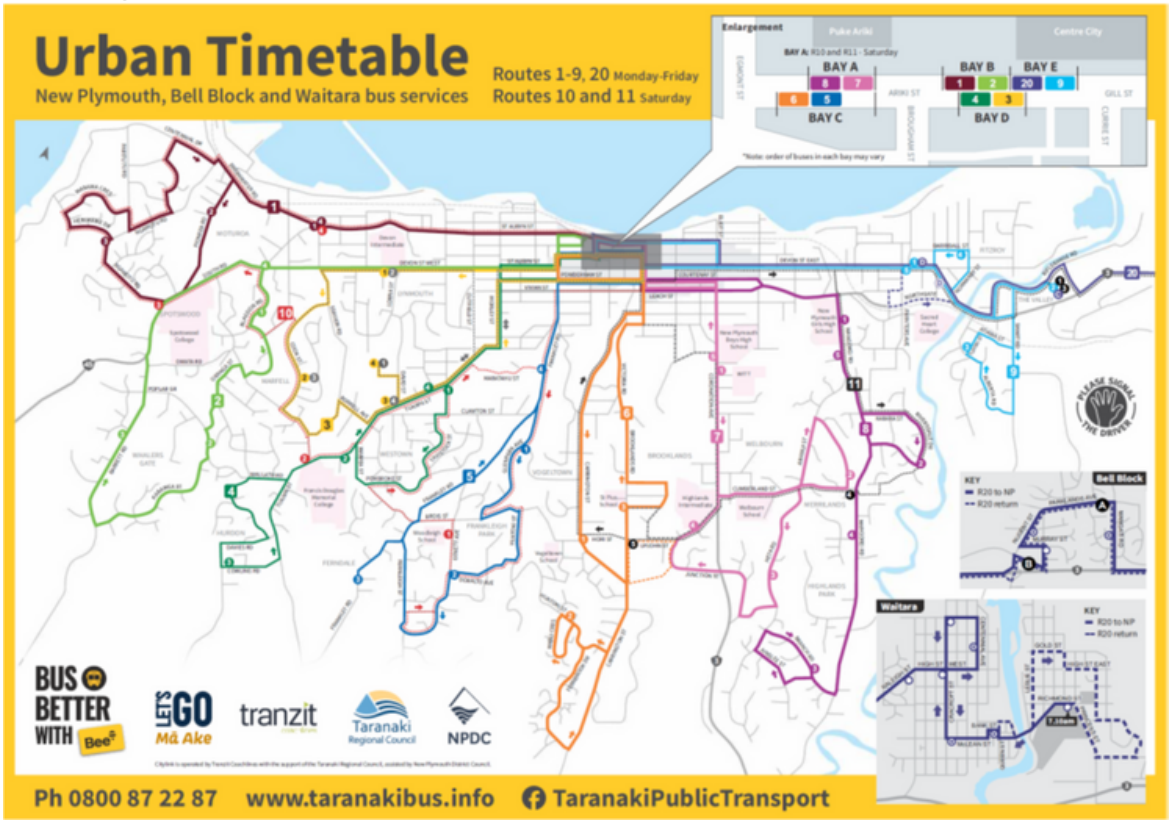
Run buses for more hours in the day, weekends and public holidays so that people's varying needs are covered.

Introduce new routes and enable more convenient transfers between routes.

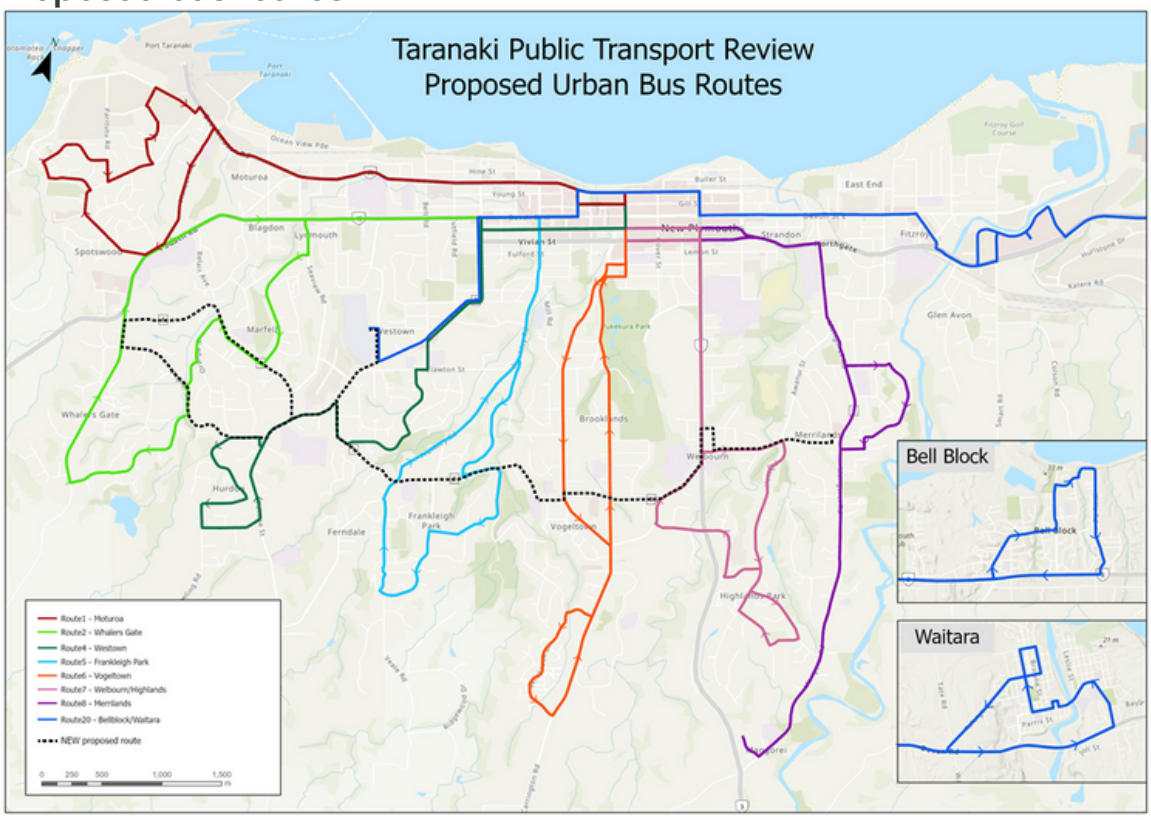
Provide frequent user discounts on fares.

Short-term options (up to 2025)

Existing bus routes



Proposed bus routes



Short-term options (up to 2025)

New Plymouth bus services

ROUTES	EXISTING	PROPOSED
1-9	Routes 1 to 9 weekdays a bus every 30 to 80 minutes, depending on time of day.	Hourly weekday service 7am-6pm on all routes, except no. 5 (7 round trips per day). Some changes to low patronage routes, inlcluding Glen Avon.
20	Route 20 weekdays, bus every two hours which all serve Bell Block and Waitara from city centre.	Start and finish all journeys at Base Hospital. Hourly to Valley Mega Centre via city centre and then alternate hours to Bell Block and Waitara as an "express" service.
10 and 11	Saturday routes run two journeys per day.	Two hourly Saturday service (5 or 6 journeys per day), on all weekday routes, except number 5.

PROPOSED FREQUENCY	
Weekday	**Weekend**
Hourly	2-hourly

Short-term options (up to 2025)

Regional bus services

ROUTES	EXISTING	PROPOSED
Connector (Hāwera - NP)	4 return journeys per day	No change to service or frequency. Timetable changes to improve punctuality. All inbound services run via New Plymouth city centre and then Base Hospital. All services run via Hāwera Hospital in both directions.
Southlink (Waverley - Hāwera, Ōpunake - New Plymouth snd Ōpunake - New Plymouth (via Kaponga, Manaia and Ōhawe)	Three return journeys per week (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)	Ōpunake to New Plymouth service to run Monday - Friday, 2 return journeys per day (SH45). Thursday service from Waverley/ Pātea re-timed to enable transfer to/ from the Connector service to New Plymouth.

Long-term improvements (2025 onwards) *A RANGE OF POTENTIAL OPTIONS*

New Plymouth services

- More services on routes 1-9, and 20:
  - Minimum half hourly weekday services.
  - Hourly Saturday services.
  - New Sunday and Public Holiday services.
  - New evening services.
- Cross-town links (avoiding city centre).
- Airport to city centre link.
- More routes to the Base Hospital.

Connector and Southlink services

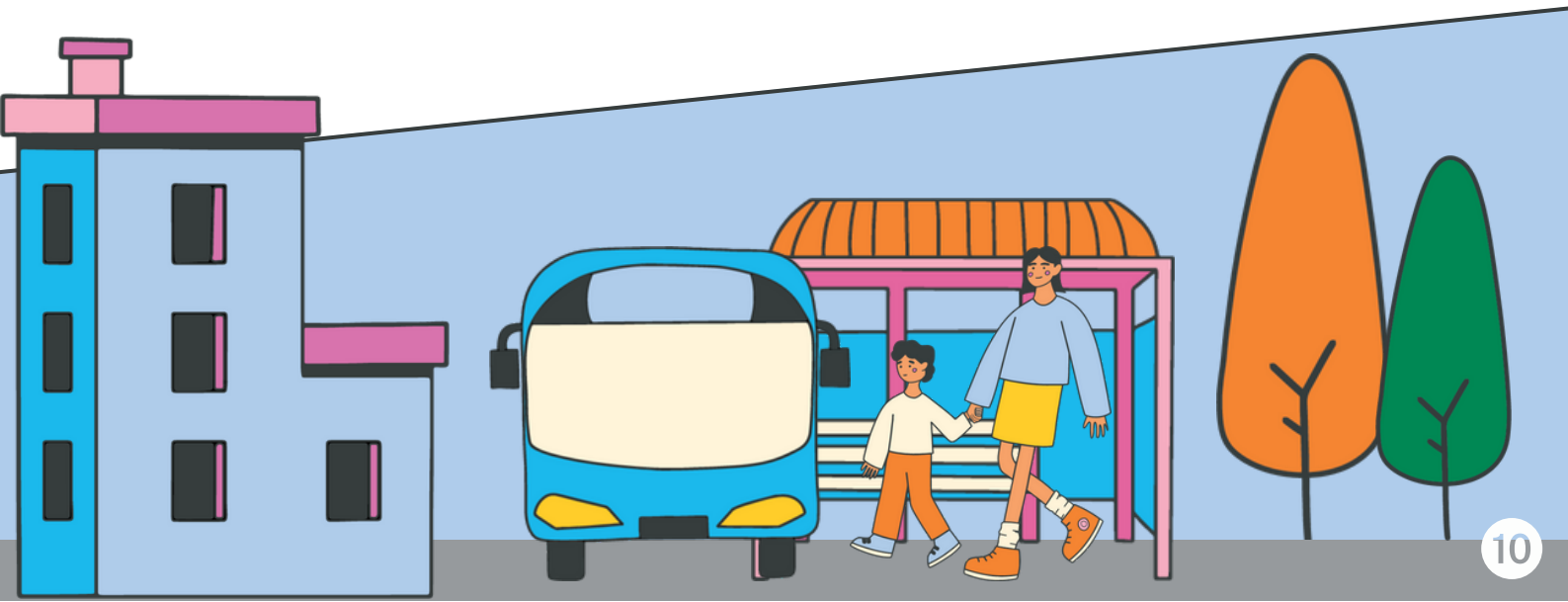
- Increase weekday Hāwera – Stratford – New Plymouth service to hourly.
- Last weekday services to run later (depart around 6pm).
- Increase service frequencies to Ōpunake, Pātea and Waverley.
- Introduce weekend / Public Holiday services.
- Introduce new weekday service to Whanganui.

Community transport

- For rural areas with infrequent or no fixed route service.
- Bookable car or van to nearest township or larger urban centre.
- Wheelchair accessible.
- Operated by charitable trusts, including volunteer staff.
- Ironside Vehicle Society already runs in New Plymouth.
- Partially funded through targeted rate.

Multi-modal transport and service hubs

- Joins all modes of transportation; cars, public transport, bicycles, and pedestrians, into a convenient hub.
- Make easier for commuters to use multiple modes of transport.
- Attract users through design elements such as: cafes and restaurants, adequate and attractive walkways, bike facilities, sufficient vehicle access and parking, and appropriate bus facilities.



Consultation process and next steps

HAVE YOUR SAY!

The draft Better Choices Strategy can be found at trc.govt.nz.

You can use the online survey to submit your feedback to us at trc.govt.nz/transport or fill in the hard copy survey available on our website and return to us here at council or email them to transport@trc.govt.nz

You can also request to attend the public hearings on 4 December 2023 to give a short summary of your views.

Following the hearings, the Regional Council will make suitable changes to the Better Choices Strategy and service improvement proposals. It is proposed to adopt the strategy in 2024. More detailed public consultation on proposed service changes will take place next year. If you have any questions, or require further assistance please contact info@trc.govt.nz or call 0800 736 222.

Submissions close Sunday 29 October 2023

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HAVE YOUR SAY

The easiest way to have your say is online at
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Taranaki
Regional Council