

By Email

10 May 2024

Wellington City Council

ltip@wcc.govt.nz

Submission on Wellington City Council's Draft Long Term Plan 2024-34

1. Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) welcomes the opportunity to submit on Wellington City Council's (the Council) draft long-term plan.
2. We wish to raise the following points in this submission:
 - a. Strongly support joint-investment of the Wellington City Bus Rapid Transit Programme
 - b. Request consideration of funding provision for roading maintenance
 - c. Enhance the emphasis on resilient infrastructure.

Strong support for the joint approach to investment of the Wellington City Bus Rapid Transit Programme

3. We acknowledge that Wellington City Council (the Council) supports a joint approach to working to get buses moving faster in the region.
4. Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) supports the commitment by the Council to advance funding projects on the Golden Mile and Thorndon Quay/Hutt Road improvements to deliver a variety of multi-modal benefits.
5. Greater Wellington strongly supports the work the Council is doing, alongside Greater Wellington officers, to develop a Wellington Rapid Transit Bus Corridor Programme to prioritise a much faster and efficient bus network timetable across the region.
6. Greater Wellington acknowledges the support provided by the Council on our bus network improvements and transformational programmes seeks the Council's ongoing commitment for fully integrated rapid transit corridors for a more efficient and productive transport network.

Enhance the emphasis on resilient infrastructure

7. Improving infrastructure resilience is important to Greater Wellington and the efficiency within our public transport network. Greater Wellington supports the ongoing bus priority projects which aim to address this.
8. We note the Council's strategic direction to prioritise active and public transport modes over the private vehicle to reduce carbon emissions and promote greater liveability. As part of this direction, Greater Wellington believes the Council should provide more support for Electric Vehicle (EV) buses which help to build resilience and adaptability.
9. Greater Wellington notes the limited reference within the Long-Term Plan that focuses on resilience other than the broad mention of pipes, roads and other infrastructure. We believe a consideration for improving resilience of roads to

accommodate EV buses would be worthwhile for the Council to consider alternative revenue and funding streams for this purpose.

Requesting consideration of alternative funding mechanisms for roading maintenance

10. Wellington City Council has noted in their submission to Greater Wellington's Long-Term Plan a reconsideration of fare zones due to cost pressures being felt in the region by commuters. We agree with the Council that public transport should be as cost effective as possible and we actively try to manage this with the cost of providing the service.
11. Greater Wellington's public transport objective is to meet the demand of our customers, and in line with our decarbonisation targets, we wish to reduce our reliance on diesel. Our EV buses help us to meet the growing demand in the region and are more efficient from a cost and vehicle perspective.
12. Greater Wellington acknowledges that the Council is the road-controlling authority and is therefore responsible for ensuring the roads are fit for purpose.
13. We believe it's crucial for Wellington City Council to incorporate alternative funding mechanisms for roading maintenance in its Long-Term Plan, as the current approach lacks this vital aspect.
14. Greater Wellington also requests a consideration of additional funding support from the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) for the the ongoing roading maintenance to ensure the road network can support ongoing electrification of the public transport network.
15. Greater Wellington would be happy to support this discussion between Wellington City Council and NZTA.

Conclusion

16. Greater Wellington acknowledges and appreciates the work the Council is doing to support infrastructure development and public transport matters.
17. Greater Wellington welcomes the opportunity to continue our close working relationship with the Council to strengthen our public transport initiatives and collaborate on this programme of work.

Ngā mihi nui

Thomas Nash
Chair
Transport Committee
Greater Wellington Regional Council