

**6. PUBLIC PASSENGER TRANSPORT STRATEGY:
A REVIEW OF CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL PROGRESS
SINCE JUNE 1998**

RR 10199

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Corporate Plan Output: Signals, Signs and Shelters Page 9.5.70 Planning Page 9.5.5	

The purpose of this report is to review the progress of the implementation of the Public Passenger Transport Strategy since its adoption by both the City and Regional Councils in June 1998.

SHELTERS

It was proposed that 30 shelters would be installed in the first year (1998/99). A total of 32 bus shelters have been installed consisting of 22 of the new type Council shelters and 10 advertising shelters. The P.T. strategy proposes that 30 to 80 new shelters per year be provided from 1999/00, and an additional 250 to 500 shelters are required overall.

STOP INFRASTRUCTURE

The City Council's contribution to the proposed Ring Route service is the provision of 84 new bus stop signs. These are basically the same sign as used on the Shuttle service but have been painted silver grey/green to match the proposed bus shelter colours. The information provided at each stop includes:

- Timetable
- Route Map
- Route name and number
- Stop name

TRAFFIC PRIORITY

A project team, consisting of staff from both the City and Regional Councils, is currently investigating options for the provision of bus priority measures at traffic signal controlled intersections.

REAL TIME INFORMATION

The first step in the provision of real time information has now been introduced. This has involved fitting the majority of the traffic controlled intersections within the city with interrogation equipment. Together with the tags also fitted to the majority of the bus fleet enables bus travel time data to be gathered. This will be integrated into the Automatic Network Travel Time System (ANTTS) that the Council uses for traffic signal control management.

The other stages to be introduced as part of this project include:

- Installation of software to track bus positions in real time
- Development of interface with CRC "Master Scheduler" timetable system
- Development of interface with on board bus electronic ticketing machines
- Installation of real time information hardware at bus stops and other key locations e.g. major shopping malls

PARKING POLICY

The preparation of a city wide parking strategy is underway with the preparation of a discussion document for public distribution. It is anticipated that a set of policies controlling the distribution and amount of parking to be provided both on and off street will result from this process. The parking strategy document is planned to be completed in the year 2000.

PARK AND RIDE

A report on the potential for the use of park and ride in Christchurch has been prepared for the Council by planning consultants Booz Allen (New Zealand) Ltd. A summary of the main findings and conclusions will be covered in a separate report to the City Services Committee.

CYCLE AND RIDE

No investigation has so far been undertaken. It is proposed to undertake this work early in the 1999/00 financial year.

LIGHT RAIL/RAIL

A report on the potential for the development of a light rail system for Christchurch has been prepared for the Council by planning consultants Booz Allen (New Zealand) Limited. A summary of the main findings and conclusions was presented to Councillors at a seminar earlier in the year.

This report also considered an option of using the existing rail corridors from Rangiora and Kaiapoi to Christchurch and Lyttelton to Christchurch, as well as three generic on-road options. The main finding of this report was that the cost of a light rail system would be very expensive and not justifiable on current financial criteria for passenger transport services.

ELECTRIC HYBRID BUSES

The Shuttle service commenced on the 12th December 1998 and the patronage to date has so far exceeded expectations. Passenger numbers are being continuously monitored and approximately 350,000 have been carried in the first five months of operation. This service has proved so popular that at peak times the capacity of the vehicles is being exceeded.

PROMOTIONS/INITIATIVES

Although not a part of the current strategy joint initiatives with the Regional Council will be aimed at promoting alternatives to the car. This will also include the setting up of a PT users group.

SUPER LOW FLOOR BUSES

The on-going programme of street alterations to kerb, channel and footpath will continue so that all bus stops are compatible with super low floor bus requirements.

Recommendation: That this information be received.

**Chairman's
Recommendation:**