MIN-4165 - Post-Budget Transport Roadshow

3 May 2023

For the week of 22 May 2023 to 26 May 2023, provide a draft programme for the Minister to visit projects being funded as part of Budget.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

Culverts and Low Cost, Low Risk projects
A list of likely low cost, low risk projects, including culverts to be funded through the Budget funding is being provided to the Minister's Office separately by 5 May 2023. This will include projects from almost every region in the country.

Public Transport
The Budget is providing additional funding for bus driver terms and conditions. This is critical for improving our service reliability so we can grow Public Transport in Aotearoa.

If the Minister is interested, Waka Kotahi could arrange a Ministerial visit to a bus depot with a group of drivers, (and union representatives if desired). There is also an opportunity to utilise the NZ Bus 'all electric' depot in Auckland, which would enable a decarbonisation crossover.

Lower North Island Rail:
The Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility (LNIRIM) project delivers:

- Eighteen new tri-mode (environmentally friendly) trains which will replace the life-expired 1970's carriage fleets.
- Improved service frequency on the Manawatu line – superseding and increasing the service offered by the Capital Connection.
- Improved service frequency on the Wairarapa line – superseding and increasing the service offered by Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) via the Metlink brand to the Wairarapa.
- Improved station facilities and rail infrastructure.

Opportunities would include:

- An event meeting either the morning arrival of the Capital Connection or Wairarapa trains at Wellington Station.
- An event timed at the departure of either the Capital Connection or Wairarapa trains in the late afternoon at Wellington Station.

Notes/options/preferences:

- The nearest stations to Wellington for the Capital Connection are Paraparaumu or Waikanae. The Minister could board or alight at these stations.
- The nearest stations to Wellington for the Wairarapa Line are Petone, Waterloo, Upper Hutt. The Minister could board or alight at these stations.
- The project owner is GWRC, and KiwiRail will deliver the infrastructure improvements.

Proactively Released

- KiwiRail currently operates the Capital Connection and GWRC operate the Wairarapa trains (via the Metlink brand).
- As project owner, GWRC might have a preference towards the Metlink branded Wairarapa trains for an event.
- The Capital Connection tends to get more visibility and media interest, which might be a preference for the Minister. These are branded trains – but not Metlink trains.

Proactively Released