

18 June 2021

Ministry of Transport
PO Box 3175
Wellington 6140
E: PTOMReview@transport.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

Re: Submission on Public Transport Operating Model Review

Regional Public Health (RPH) is the public health unit for the greater Wellington region (Wairarapa, Hutt Valley and Capital & Coast District Health Boards). Our purpose is to improve and protect the health of the population in the greater Wellington region with a focus on achieving equity.

Regional Public Health would like to formally support the following proposed objectives within the Ministry of Transport's proposed Public Transport Operating Model (PTOM).

- Competitors have access to public transport markets
- Public transport is an attractive mode of transport
- There is sustainable provision of services, including through a sustainable labour market
- Public transport services reduce the environmental and health impact of land transport

The objectives significantly expand the remit of how public transport services are planned and contracted from the previous objectives which focused narrowly on growing the commerciality of services, pricing of services and ensuring competition in the market.

The expanded objectives better represent the important influence of public transport on a range of health, social and environmental outcomes. In particular, using public transport can bring health benefits from increasing physical activity, as it often requires travel on foot for part of the journey. It also reduces air pollution, is safer than travelling by car, and can improve mental health.¹

The inclusion of public transport as 'an attractive mode of transport' also rightly puts the focus of the operating model on growing a positive consumer experience of public transport, which will encourage a shift toward this healthier mode of transport.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Nāku noa na

Peter Gush
General Manager

¹ Litman, T. (2010). Evaluating Public Transportation Health Benefits. Victoria transport Policy Institute.
https://www.apta.com/wp-content/uploads/Resources/resources/reportsandpublications/Documents/APTA_Health_Benefits_Litman.pdf (Accessed 8 June 2021)