

# Public Transport Levy Att 7 Initiatives & Projects 2011/12

## ATTACHMENT 7

### 2011/12 INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

The following is information on the general extent of activity related to each initiative under the Public Transport Levy for 2011/12.

#### **Improve bus services to the Nambour area**

Background investigations related to route network options related to current and future road connectivity was undertaken. There was also a preliminary evaluation of potential bus stop sites. This information was shared with TransLink and workshops held. A survey of the Nambour community to try to establish the likely origins and destinations of travel is being developed which will help shape any preliminary route distributed for public feedback.

#### **Continued support for Route 613 (Twin Waters - Maroochydore) improvement:- realign and frequency increase**

This entailed maintaining funding commitments for the 'bring forward' improvement of this service change. The funding obligations end in 2011/12.

The service will continue as a permanent route after Councils involvement.

#### **Continued support to Route 619 (Maroochydore – Mooloolaba) and weekend hourly services**

This is a funding commitment for the 'bring forward' of weekend services at the time of the last service change in December 2010. A reduced funding commitment exists for 2012/2013.

The service will continue as a permanent route after Councils involvement.

#### **Trial Coolum to Nambour Service**

A trial bus service between Coolum and Nambour was developed and implemented on 31 October 2011. A service review will occur in April to check its performance to date. It is likely that a continuation of the trial beyond June 2012 is warranted to confirm the demand that exists for this service.

A survey of the route alignment has occurred and the feedback from this will assist in shaping its future.

#### **Extended Hours / Evening bus services**

Investigations occurred with TransLink and Department of Transport and Main Roads (Passenger Services) as to potential amendments to existing services to better serve the Sunshine Coast.

A proposal is in place for extended Hours for Route 610 between Nambour and Mooloolaba. No actioning of this has occurred due to impending caretaker period and subsequent new council establishment.

Proposals for Late connections from the University of the Sunshine Coast Bus Station and both Nambour and Caloundra have been trialled separately as an initiative by the University.

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## ATTACHMENT 7

### **Continued support for Route 600 (Maroochydore-Caloundra) :-create 15 min frequency on weekends**

Additional services were continued on Saturday and Sunday to create a consistent 15 minute frequency through the core hours of the weekend to give the same frequency all week.

### **Support for other TransLink generated service initiatives/trials/opportunities**

There was potential for support for new initiatives with scheduled TransLink service changes. However due to the extent of changes across the South East of Queensland and resourcing, the potential initiatives were not considered a critical priority and so were not included.

### **Beerwah to Landsborough to Maleny Bus service trial**

The service continued as a trial and its level of patronage has grown through the year. A survey has been developed for the Beerwah extension of the service to determine travel habits and suggest an alteration to the service route which may allow better connectivity for users. No actioning of this has occurred due to impending caretaker period (State and local government elections)and subsequent new council establishment. Feedback from the service will shape the future of this trial.

### **Continue Hinterland Connect between Maleny and Nambour**

This service is now fully funded by TransLink but its status as a service is still not declared by TransLink. A service review was undertaken by TransLink in September/October 2011. Council was invited to submit information to support the review and this did occur. No announcement of formal advice has been received on the outcome of this review.

However it is understood that a further service review will occur in April 2012.

### **Flexilink – (Boreen Pt, Peachester, Conondale, Mapleton)**

Four flexilink services remain operating and patronage level range from being maintained to showing steady growth. Analysis of the usage has occurred and is reported separately. User surveys are to occur to assist in providing the qualitative data needed to consider the future of these services.

### **Flexilink – new trials**

A proposal for a new flexilink service between Cooroy and Lake Macdonald was investigated and community feedback sought. The feedback indicated the service with some minor modifications was likely to be worthy of trial. No actioning of this has occurred due to impending caretaker period and subsequent new council establishment. It would be proposed for consideration in 2012/13.

### **Council Cabs**

This service continued through 2011/12 and has continued to see growth through the year. Analysis of the usage has occurred and is reported separately.

### **Free Holiday Bus initiative (Christmas/New Year period only)**

The free travel on all bus services, Flexilink services and Council Cabs initiative for the period from 26 December 2011 to 8 January 2012 has again shown considerable growth in usage. Separate information in relation to usage as well as community and user feedback is available which show the impacts of this initiative.

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## **ATTACHMENT 7**

### **Service improvement investigations with TTA and DTMR**

No service improvements were proposed by either organisation in 2012/13 for Council consideration. This was potentially due to the extent of service changes already scheduled through 2011 which impacted resourcing.

### **Premium Bus Stop improvements**

Further bus stop sites have been upgraded using levy funding in 2011/12. This year, there was need for stops for the Coolum to Nambour trial and the potential for sites to support the Nambour service change which has not progressed. The remaining funding was applied to other sites as listed.

### **Park and Ride development**

An investigation was conducted on a range of potential park and ride sites across the coastal Sunshine Coast. Sites were considered for their current, medium term or future potential. Consideration was given to land tenure, access to public transport services, pedestrian connectivity, safety, cost and a range of other factors. While short lists were developed for each area considered a decision was made not to progress without further discussion with TransLink. This matter is likely to be considered by Council in the future.

### **Support TTA Real Time Information roll out**

Funding was initially identified in 2011/12 as Sunshine Coast was shortlisted as a trial site. Ultimately, TransLink decided to so with a single trial site in the Logan area which spanned the range of service conditions likely to be encountered.

### **Implement “One” public transport system across Sunshine Coast**

There was considerable support for the early progression of this initiative to enable the use of ‘go card’ across the Sunshine Coast. However a letter to the Mayor from the Minister advised that as TransLink was reviewing the future of the Hinterland Connect service between Maleny and Nambour this initiative would be placed on hold.

### **Network analysis, initiative performance, develop and maintain performance measures (in house with State agencies and operators)**

Data gathering has occurred and relationships established to enable further data sharing to occur as needed. Analysis has occurred to determine the impact of Councils investments through the Public Transport Levy and this is reported separately. There exists further opportunities to understand travel patterns and demand on the Sunshine Coast.

### **Draft Public Transport Management Plan**

This document has been progressed but has yet to be considered by Council but is likely to occur in 2012/13.

### **Investigation into the High Capacity Transport corridor between Maroochydore and Beerwah**

Following an initial workshop with Councillors and senior staff a report was considered by Council and the Light Rail Taskforce was established. Funding for this activity was sourced from other levy initiatives as appropriate.

The outcomes of the investigations to date will be reported separately for Councils consideration.

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### **Marketing of all initiatives**

Considerable effort has occurred to ensure all the initiatives being undertaken through the public transport levy are known to users, potential users and the community at large.

### **Communicating Sustainable Transport (Elements of the Draft Communications and Marketing Plan)**

The development of the Sustainable Transport Communications and Marketing Strategy has progressed. A partnership was initiated with TransLink in a Sunshine Coast wide communications program targeting travel patterns and specific user groups.

### **User Information development and distribution**

This saw the development of a public transport user guide previously discussed as the getting around guide.

### **Livery and touch points improvements**

This is linked with the Sustainable Transport Communications and Marketing Strategy and as it was not progressed as expected this initiative funding was redirected as opportunity presented itself with the joint communication partnership with TransLink for the Sunshine Coast.

### **Possible U-Pass support**

The University again approached Council for support of its innovative U-Pass scheme in partnership with TransLink. Given the results in its first year, the potential to influence student travel across the coast and the Universities pro-active approach to travel demand management it was again supported.