

## **PUBLIC PASSENGER TRANSPORT IN NEW ZEALAND'S URBAN REGIONS**

We, the four main urban regions, have about 96% of the urban public passenger transport services. We administer the legislation relating to planning these services (Regional Land Transport Strategies, Regional Passenger Transport Plan), regulating these services (Transport Services Licensing Act) and contracting and part funding these services together with Transfund New Zealand, the national transport funder.

Our understanding of the likely policy direction of the new government is for greater investment in urban public transport with emphasis on the implementation of regional strategies under the umbrella of a yet to be completed National Transport Strategy.

Our current Regional Land Transport Strategies tend to have a common goal of major enhancements in public transport provision ahead of further investments in roading capacity.

Our experience of current legislation and the government departments administrative structures shows there are several barriers to achieving this greater investment in public transport. These barriers are:

- The current ministerial performance agreement with Transfund New Zealand which includes a funding cap for passenger transport
- The limiting legislative mandate of Transfund New Zealand which is focussed on benefits to road users **not** transport users and has led to restrictive and complex procedures for public transport that focuses on minimum price rather than best value
- The overall legislative framework dealing with passenger transport which does not encourage investment in public transport

We believe these barriers need to be dealt with progressively and we wish to help you in that endeavour.

Our suggestions for change would include:

### **Short Term**

- An immediate increase to the Transfund New Zealand subsidy level for public transport services
- Relaxation of the current alternatives to roading procedures required by Transfund New Zealand so that more public transport projects and services can receive funding

### **Medium Term**

- Review of Transfund New Zealand's interpretation of which public transport service benefits they are able to fund
- Overhaul of Transfund New Zealand's Competitive Pricing Procedures and their leaning towards minimum price outcomes rather than best transport solutions

### **Long Term**

- Review of public transport legislation across the board with a view to providing legislation that encourages investment in public transport