

Blue Mountains Commuter & Transport Users Assoc.Inc.  
Ref: BMC&TUA Minutes May 08.  
Date 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May 08

The combined minutes of the Association meetings held 21<sup>st</sup> May Valley Heights and 24<sup>th</sup> May at Katoomba total attendance at both meetings 13. present 6 apologies.

The meetings Chaired by President Ed McKenzie Sect Paul Trevaskis.

**Reports and Plans tabled by Secretary.**

1. Blue Mnts City Council  
Bike Plan. Note Separated protected Bike path on Highway suggested.  
Council Minutes 22/4/08 Memorandum of Understanding with Penrith Council.  
Lawson Town Centre.  
Local Traffic Committee Report with Glenbrook Highway Review with RTA.
2. Engineers Australia News Letter.
3. Chartered Institute of Transport News Letter.
4. Minutes of the Blue Mnts Sustainable Alliance.
5. Media release RailCorp 14day rail ticket.
6. Media release Sydney buses prepay tickets for buses at Chatswood.
7. NCOSS News Letter Changes to Incorporation Act.
8. Lachlan Regional Transport Committee Minutes.
9. MetroLink Plan NSW Government.
10. Smart link Plan from Great Community Transport Inc.
11. World Youth Day Transport Plan.
12. News Release Euro-style metro RAIL PROJECT.
13. South West Rail Link.
14. Older Drivers Licence Changes (What effect on Transport?)

**Correspondence Received**

1. Ministerial Advice re Ferries, Metro System.Watkins Office.
2. Ministerial Advice re Current Rail Projects, Road projects, Role of the RailCorp Board, Freedom of Information comment (**Must revisit this corr.**)
3. Ministerial Advice re Refurbishment of V sets, Review of Maintenance procedures at Train Depots, Scoping and planning future upgrades at Lawson Waterfall, Edgecliff, Dapto, clyde,Marrickville,Macarthur Cardiff.
4. Bob Debus re Upgrading of Roads across Blue Mountains, look at Bell Line of Road (Questionable at this stage).
5. Reply from Damon Tudor re Various issues on Mountains.
6. Reply from Country link re refurbishment of locomotives plus info from manufacturer of locomotive engines.
7. Transfer of Vince Graham CEO RailCorp to Integral Energy..
8. Blue Mints environment Summit programme of release of discussions.
9. Karyn Paluzzano Member for Penrith Reply from Ministerial re ticketing and the changes in the P.M Peak services terminating at Blacktown ( **Effect on Intercity is a services a concern**).

**Over 2**

**Correspondence Inwards Contd.**

10. Report on the Water removal from Intercity Cars (See comment in decisions)
11. Community Directory Blue Mnts City Council
12. RailCorp request the Assoc. top agree to seats on stations be Blue not Green
- 13 Report on 20-20 Summit held at Bathurst and Canberra

**Correspondence Outwards.**

1. To Minister of Transport copy Karyn Paluzzano the reply did not address the turn back at Emu Plains of Penrith - St Marys track expansion.
2. The Editor Gazette.
3. Timetable Issues List as at March 08 ( To be revised).
4. Interview with Phil Koperberg March 08
5. Interview with Phil Koperberg April 08.
6. Letter to RailCorp re World Youth Day Rail Services Effect on City Rail services.
7. Planning City of Cities Programme
8. Ferry Inquiry Comments from Association

*Note The Association is waiting for the completion of restructure of CityRail, outcomes from Boston Consulting Group into RailCorp and the IPART Inquiry in the Regulatory Framework of CityRail. The members did note the media coverage of ICAC Inquiry*

**Matters Arising from Reports and Resolutions from Members**

- The Association request Railcorp to improve the frequency of service around the City Circle to relieve the pressure on Wynyard and Town Hall. (It was noted that the media reported that the Town Hall Upgrade was to be postponed until the Metro Link was built this is to be confirmed).
- The Association request RailCorp introduce the fortnightly ticket to the Blue Mountains Stations also introduction of the Day tripper to the Blue Mountains it is noted that the three day pass and EFTPOS were still a policy of the Mountains.
- The following Operational Issues are to be pursued by the Association.
  1. Extension of more Penrith Terminators to be extended to Emu Plains to overcome the problem in Penrith Yard where suburban stabling of trains delays InterCity Trains.
  2. The Association vigorously pursues the extension off the two tracks to four between Penrith and St.Marys. this will overcome Express Services being delayed by suburban services also overcomes congestion, which was highlighted by three peak hour suburban services terminating at Blacktown. Another factor is there must be consideration for an increase in Freight Rail
  3. Station Staff be employed at Emu Plains on Weekends.
- The Members agreed with the submission to the Taxi Inquiry the Ministry of Transport should review the Taxi Boundaries to overcome the imposition of a return fare is charged example Glenbrook to Penrith \$37.00 this fare was in off peak naturally this would be higher in peak hours The Association considers the taxi industry is the fourth arm of the transport system and now is the opportunity global warming congestion etc opportunity of review is here.

**Over 3.**

- Members requested the Secretary to establish from RailCorp when CityRail is to reinstall rubbish bins on stations especially at Parramatta, Strathfield, CBD Rail stations. We understood that bins with plastic liners were to be installed.
- The Secretary was approached by RailCorp for the Association to agree to a change in the colour of the seating on Mountains Stations from green to blue. There was no hesitation as the members felt there were more urgent problems Restructure of City Rail operations, Intercity car refurbishment, timetable issues overcrowding etc.
- The members agreed that as the policing of the “U” stops had not been consistent or productive since the introduction of 2003 timetable the members agreed we lift the “U” Stop off the 4.23 ex Central service at Parramatta and Penrith and request extra two cars. It was agreed that 4 cars in the peak hour was not successful especially as since the stop at Penrith had been introduced. This leaves two services with “U” stops the 4.53 P.M ex Central with a “U” stop at Blacktown and the 5.24 P.M service with a “U” stop at Parramatta. The Association members indicated that if the rule cannot be enforced then the condition is complete failure and other arrangements have to be considered for the problem of Intercity services being overcrowded.
- The question was raised concerning Country Link services served by Coach . Are the services meeting the Access and Disability Act The members pointed out that members of the Community are being referred to Specialists and the Hospital at Bathurst. Secretary to confirm and Dept of Health rep on Blue Mnts Integrated Transport Forum.
- The Secretary to establish if the \$20 million funding available for the Mt. Vic – Lithgow road bypass does include road freight considerations.
- Members noted that Transit Officers are obvious by their absence also as the article in the Sun Herald points out their was some confusion as to whether Transit Officers could ask for date of birth or powers to detain the offender. It was noted in the article that RailCorp did not know how many tickets were issued. This audit should reveal the success or failure of the “U” stops and should have been done shortly after the new timetable. ( An incident at Granville present on the media indicated that there was confusion as to where the jurisdictions of the Transit officer ended and police jurisdictions commenced Sect to seek information)
- The members requested the following “The repetitive announcements between Penrith and Parramatta are superfluous as the passengers are regular periodical customers and there is no need for this practice One announcement before Parramatta was sufficient. These customers are intelligent and employed in positions of authority.
- The Secretary requested from members that the Annual General Meeting be conducted in September as the World Youth Day events are being held around that time. Agreed by members.

**Over 4**

- **Refurbishment of Intercity Cars**

Members requested that there be more supervision of cleaning of cars at Central of rubbish and the toilets are in need of attention graffiti was observed in one car this raised the question as to how long will the decision on the refurbishment decision will take.

A feature that should be included in the refurbishment project was a monitoring panel in Guards Compartment that monitors the emergency buttons in the cars this to show which car the button was pressed. An incident at Blacktown recently where a Mountains Service was terminated at Blacktown as the button was pressed and the guard was unable to find which one was pressed and the circumstances why the button was pressed thus the journey time was extended for the passengers.

- The members requested interconnection with buses and trains on the Mountains Displayed on bus timetables the members suggested that the Bus company Web site Be used as well this could be done in the immediate future This request to pass to Blue Mountains Bus Company.
- The meeting decided that the Association look at establishing the Transport needs of the Community both bus and rail Statistics are required to establish travel patterns hence stopping patterns and other issues of transport on the Mountains The secretary to investigate the methodology and process also what information is available. Journey to work, Shift from car to train. Noted Only 16% Rail etc.
- The Secretary tabled the minutes of the Blue Sustainable Transport Alliance the Issues raised were very much an issue of the BMC&TUA and on our books The Secretary is to contact them on a number of issues plus the Membership and format of the Alliance.
- The reply from The Minister of transport it was noted that the provision of a lift at Lawson was being considered amongst other stations as referred to in Correspondence.
- The withdrawal of Water from our Intercity it was decided the Secretary write and ask “How does Qantas manage their water in the aircraft over 24 hrs also Was the water fully tested before placement in the cars? Was any testing done after the insertion of the ice in the tanks? Did RailCorp inspect the internal condition of the tanks since they are up to twenty –thirty years? Did CityRail take the opportunity to look at the condition of the water tanks in the scrapped Intercity Cars?. Are the water tanks stainless steel?
- The members asked the following As OSCRS and G sets with toilets are operating on the suburban system prior to the journey on the Outer Suburban area the Association would like to know when the toilets are available.
- Information from RailCorp indicates no future plan for Country Link. Services

**Over 5**

### **Future Planning of Intercity Services and timetable issues..**

- The Association formally requests The Fish 5.08 A.M Lithgow – Central and The Fish 5.24 P.M Central- Lithgow services be tabled to be last stop Glenbrook in A.M and first stop Glenbrook The Service to stop at Parramatta both ways.
- That RailCorp ensure the following services are 6 car sets 6.10 P.M. and the 4.23 P.M ex Central.
- The Association request how many Intercity cars are available for the existing services?
- How many cars are in the process of heavy maintenance?
- The 4 car set being used for ATP programme when will this be available for service?
- There are two cars at the Training School at Petersham considering shortage of cars why are these two cars being used at the Training school.
- The members requested the following: Considering the Global warming and related factors that City Rail introduce an hourly service from MtVic to Sydney CBD.
- The member requested that the aim of the Association be to restore the train service to the 1990 Timetable principles
- The Association seek support for the extension of the Electrified Network be extended fro Lithgow to Bathurst and Macarthur to Goulburn consideration of 25KVA power an option Improvement in rail services assured, decentralisation tourism and other factors would be an advantage
- The Refurbishment of the Intercity Cars should be treated with urgency calling a tender for the refurbishment and also call for an Expression of interest for the next Intercity replacement Members were firm that the present OSCRs re not suitable the airconditioning has to meet different conditions seating is not as comfortable The present Intercity Cars are considered the best world wide and have been for many years The Association calls for a contract of 100 cars to address the needs of the extended area of operation and current demands on Intercity services.
- The Association members were supportive of the completion of the Dumbarton Line; the completion of this line would reduce the need for coal freight to traverse the suburban lines on the Illawarra Line... A Group from Lithgow was lobbying for this.
- The Members suggested that if the Cumberland Line services were extended to the Richmond Line with interconnection at Westmead stopping intercity services might reduce the frequency of Intercity services at Granville.
- The secretary attended the Lachlan Regional Transport Committee meeting at Neville recently the members of that committee raised the issue of access across Mountains both rail and road at have written to the Federal Government requesting information on what is being considered by the Federal Government on this issue.
- At Lachlan Regional Transport Committee meeting, a group from Bathurst from Bathurst were lobbying for improved rail services to Sydney.

The Association received a cheque of \$50.00 dollars as a corporate membership fee to join the Association for which we are truly grateful a letter of appreciation will be actioned. These minutes are a draft of the meeting held at the respective dates Paul Trevaskis Sect. Total time of both meetings four hours.