

Rugby World Cup 2011 Status Report— November 2010

Purpose

To provide the Board with a progress report on the Rugby World Cup (RWC) 2011 transport operations.

Executive Summary

RWC 2011 planning is on track with the plans for the competition venues completed and having been tested on a number of occasions. Planning will continue but for the competition venues we are getting into the implementation phase.

Transport Management Plan (TMP) Components

1. Eden Park

The TMP for Eden Park was completed early in 2010 and has been tested on two occasions

- (i) Tri Nations test - 10 July 2010
- (ii) Four Nations Rugby League, 6 November 2010

On 6 November 2010 a new parking scheme was implemented that caused some dissatisfaction from the local residents. This will need to be addressed before the next testing operation.

A full review of the 6 November match will take place before the next test in February for the opening Super 15 match: Blues v Crusaders.

For each match of the Super 15 season we will trial the rail operation by using both platforms at Kingsland Station to travel to Britomart and Morningside Station for travel to the western suburbs.

The last full test of the TMP prior to the RWC2011 will be the Bledisloe Cup in August 2011 some four weeks prior to the RWC2011.

From a traffic implementation perspective Action Traffic has been appointed as the Traffic Implementation Contractor for RWC2011 operations.

2. North Harbour

The TMP for North Harbour Stadium was completed in September 2010 and was tested at the All Whites v Honduras Soccer match on 9 October.

The TMP received a very positive response with approximately below 20% of patrons using special event bus services to / from the event.

Further testing of the TMP is limited and we are working with North Harbour Stadium on future events to test aspects of the TMP. We are also working with Westfield Shopping Centre to test certain aspects of the traffic arrangements when they have large events e.g. fireworks display, November 2010 and Boxing Day Sales 26 December.

From a traffic implementation perspective Auckland Transport is working with North Harbour Stadium to tender the works for the appointment of a Traffic Implementation Contractor for RWC2011 operations.

3. Public Transport

(i) Rail

The RWC2011 rail timetable is presently being drafted by Veolia and a detailed draft of the opening night operations is expected to be available in November. The timetable will include extended services on the morning following matches at Eden Park.

Once a timetable is developed, further planning will continue to determine the specific rolling stock required, the numbers of drivers required, the impact on existing timetable services and the ability to operate services the day after a match.

Other aspects regarding rail operations that are also being considered by KiwiRail are:

- how and when trains will be configured prior to each match
- how trains will be refuelled
- preventative maintenance programme so all rolling stock is available during RWC2011 matches
- security arrangements at stabling areas so rolling stock is not vandalised
- preventative maintenance on rail lines signalling so all is at peak operation during RWC2011
- staffing to manually control signals should a failure occur during RWC2011 matches

Further work being undertaken for RWC2011 includes:

The Strand Station upgrade:

- The track work and signalling upgrade will take place during the Christmas Block of Line 2010/11
- The station works, including increasing the station height of Platforms 1 & 2, installing pedestrian pathways back to The Strand and upgrading the lighting on both platforms will take place early in 2011 with an expected completion date of June 2011
- The rail operations will be tested by Veolia and KiwiRail early in 2011
- Pedestrian Modelling – Britomart Station
- Parsons Brinkerhoff NZ is presently undertaking this task to ascertain how the station will operate during an Eden Park exit phase with a large number of patrons arriving at the CBD and a large number of patrons exiting the CBD from the Fanzone

(ii) Bus

Four bus companies have been appointed to operate the RWC2011 Bus Services: Ritchies, Howick and Eastern, Bayes and NZ Bus. Agreements are presently with operators for signing. Meetings will then take place with operators to determine operations requirements for each service.

Bus driving hours are likely to be an issue and each operator is in the process of developing a Fatigue Management Plan that will be put to NZTA for consideration to see if any changes can be made to driving hour legislation.

The extension of bus services into the early hours of the morning following a RWC2011 match is also being negotiated with operators. It is expected that high capacity routes from the city will be the only services extended.

We are presently in discussion with NZTA on the widening of the emergency stopping lane northbound between Constellation Drive and Greville Road to speed up bus operations to North Harbour stadium. From discussions, NZTA is confident some work can be undertaken prior to RWC2011 to make this happen.

(iii) Ferry

A Ferry study was completed early 2010 on options to maximise ferry transportation during RWC2011. A number of meetings have been conducted with Fullers and other operators to extend services in some areas at peak times, particularly on nights of RWC2011 matches to coincide with the hours of operation of public transport.

4. Other Areas

(i) Fanzones

Queens Wharf

Queens Wharf will operate for the six weeks of the tournament. Transport arrangements on the wharf during the Fanzone operation are presently being discussed with the aim of maintaining business as usual i.e. airbus, taxi operations etc. wherever possible. On the days of the main games, particularly at Eden Park, transport services will be relocated.

For the opening ceremony on 9 September it is proposed that Quay Street will be closed between Britomart Place and lower Hobson Street from 9.00pm Thursday 8 September through to 4.00am on Saturday 10 September. It is expected that the last bus will operate through the closures on Thursday night and diversion to all routes will take place throughout Friday. Access will be maintained to Princes Wharf and negotiations have taken place with Fullers to satisfy their arrangements during the closure. Taxi services will also be relocated to service the area during the closures.

Civic Lakes, Albany; Trusts Stadium, Henderson and Pacific Events Centre, Manukau

Transport plans are presently under review at these three venues.

(ii) Training Venues

Six training venues have been designated for pool matches where we are required to provide public transport services to open training sessions. The schedule of training sessions is not known at this stage but each venue has been reviewed and in a number of instances public transport services will suffice but in others shuttle bus services may be required from main transport hubs or designated Park & Rides.

(iii) Airport to CBD Route

Review of all work previously undertaken on this operation has been reviewed. The designated routes for each mode are:

- Bus / Coach: Mt Eden Road
- SH20 has a bus lane operating along SH20 between Walmsley Road and Queenstown Road and there appears no need to extend this to Hillsborough Road to accommodate bus movements.
- This route is congested at Mt Eden Village and review of RWC2011 bus operations is being undertaken to determine if the clearway times can / need to be changed to accommodate the large bus movements at peak times.
- Car: Manukau Road

- Taxi: most suitable route

Discussions with NZTA have confirmed that the use of their electronic message boards on SH20 can be used to advise of the preferred route should one or the other become congested.

A dedicated project team is being established to ensure the effective operation of the routes during the RWC. This will involve working closely with NZTA.

(iv) Taxi operations




The RWC2011 Workstream has been working with the main taxi operators in Auckland together with NZTA to determine the best way to improve taxi operations in Auckland. Meetings are ongoing.

Next Steps / Key Issues

Further testing of TMPs will occur and the final stages of planning for the Fan Zones, training venues and business as usual will continue.

Recommendation

That this report be received.

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