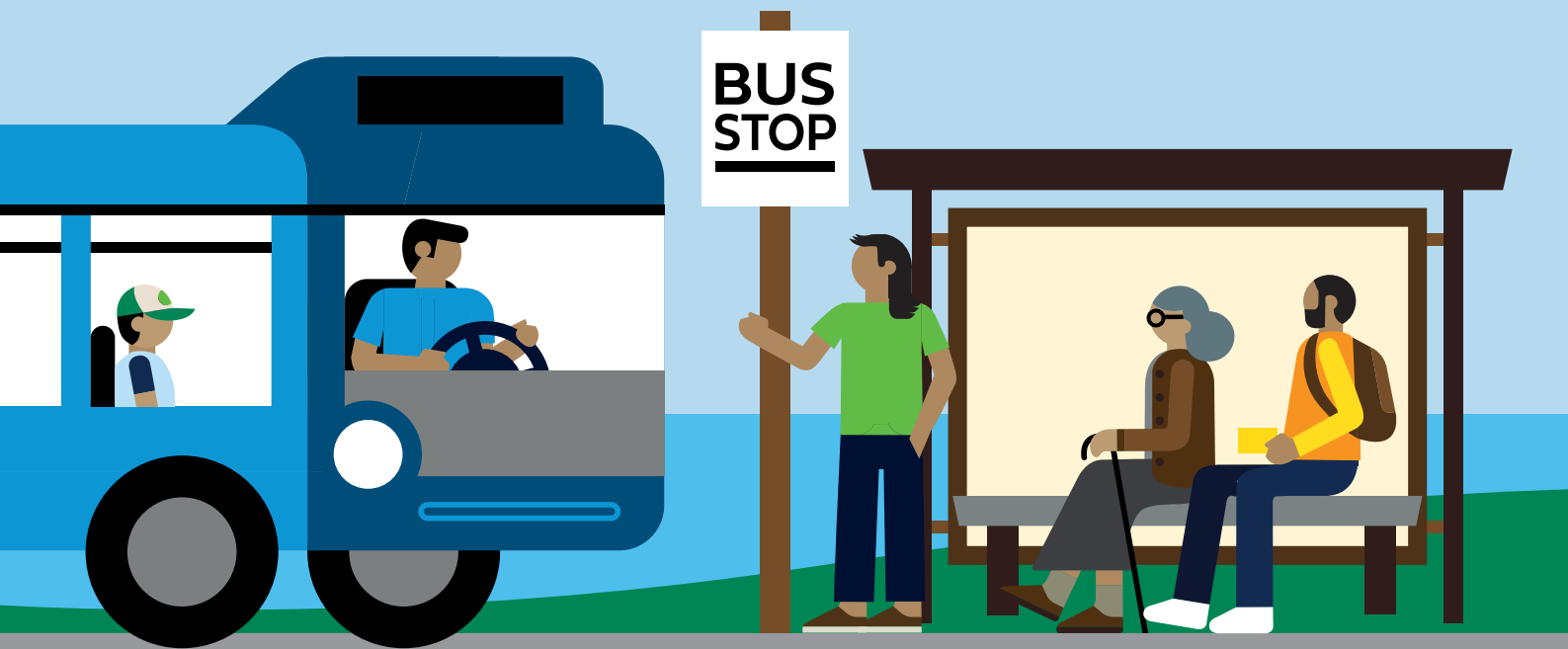


Tukua tō kōrero mō te tauira o te Mahere Waka Tūmatanui ā-Rohe

Have your say on the draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2026-2036



He aha e whai ake nei mō ngā pahi? What's next for buses?

Share your feedback by 6 August
participate.boprc.govt.nz/rptp-2026



Mō te Mahere Waka Tūmatanui ā-Rohe o Te Moana a Toi About the Regional Public Transport Plan

The Bay of Plenty is growing and changing, and the public transport network needs to grow and adapt too.

Public transport already plays an important role across the region, helping people get to work, education, healthcare and everyday activities. It gives people more choice in how they travel while supporting communities to stay connected.

Public transport serves different purposes across the region. In larger urban areas, it can help move more people efficiently and free up road space for other vehicles that rely on it, such as freight and trade traffic. In smaller towns and rural communities, it can provide important access for people who may have limited transport options.

The draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2026-36 (RPTP) sets out the long-term direction for public transport in the Bay of Plenty over the next 10 years. It outlines the priorities, objectives, policies and actions that will guide future public transport planning, delivery, and investment.

The draft plan looks at the role public transport should play across the region, including:

- The priorities for future investment
- How services should respond to growth and changing communities
- How public transport can support access, reliability and transport choice
- The strategic framework used to guide decision-making.

Detailed decisions about routes, bus stops and timetables are considered separately, but are influenced by the draft plan's strategic framework, and may change over time in response to funding, demand, and community needs. Many public transport decisions are also influenced by national funding priorities and government transport policy, which help determine what improvements can be delivered and how quickly.

Your feedback on the draft plan is important; it will help inform decisions and shape outcomes for public transport in our region.



Ngā wero kei mua

The challenges ahead

Public transport needs to respond to a wide range of regional challenges and opportunities.

As our region grows and changes, different communities will need different levels of service from public transport, affecting where investment is focused.

The draft plan identifies several long-term challenges and opportunities that will help shape future public transport decisions across the region.

What we're looking at

What makes it challenging

What could improve

Transport choice

In some parts of the region, people rely heavily on private vehicles because public transport options are limited or may not suit all journeys.

Better alignment between urban growth and transport planning can help make public transport a more practical option in growing urban areas.

Access needs

Many people face challenges accessing public transport for everyday needs, and service levels vary across the region.

Improving accessibility and exploring different service models could help more people stay connected to work, education, healthcare and community life.

Reducing transport emissions

Transport is one of the region's largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions.

More people using public transport and other sustainable travel choices can help support lower emissions over time.

Funding our network

Public transport costs are increasing while available funding remains limited.

Focusing investment where it delivers the greatest benefit can help support a more effective and enduring public transport system.

Adaptability and resilience

Public transport needs to respond to changing travel patterns, funding pressures and community needs over time.

A more flexible and responsive public transport system can adapt more effectively to future challenges and increased demand.

Tell us what you think

What are the most important challenges facing public transport in the Bay of Plenty?

You can share your views in Question 1 of the submission form. Your feedback will help us understand which challenges are most important to communities as we plan for the future.

Ngā hua o te mahere tauira

Draft plan outcomes

The draft plan proposes a stronger focus on improving reliability, accessibility and customer experience across the public transport network.

It also places greater emphasis on the role public transport can play in helping our growing urban areas move more efficiently, particularly where congestion affects reliability and travel times.



He whatunga waka tūmatanui angitu

A successful public transport network

What makes public transport work well

What this means

Accessibility and inclusivity:

Better access and customer experience

Making public transport easier to use through improved accessibility, information and customer experience.

Convenience:

Improving reliability

Improving service reliability by reducing the impact of congestion on bus journey times.

Integration between transport choices:

Better transport connections

Supporting stronger connections between public transport, walking and cycling.

Affordability:

Balancing investment and value for money

Focusing investment where it delivers the greatest benefit for communities and the wider transport system.

Sustainability:

Improving environmental outcomes

Cleaner buses, well designed towns, and strong links with active modes help reduce emissions and make the system more resilient.

Safety and wellbeing:

Ensuring people are safe

Focusing on passenger safety and comfort.

Community engagement:

A system that reflects the needs of communities

Public transport is shaped by what local people need, helping communities stay connected.

Tell us what you think

What matters most for successful public transport in our region?

You can share your views in Question 2 of the submission form. Your feedback will help identify the areas people want prioritised as the network continues to develop.

Te whakakitenga me ngā whāinga

Vision and objectives

The draft plan sets out a long-term vision of what successful public transport in our region could look like:

“More people using convenient, accessible public transport that supports urban transformation and sub-regional connectivity, while reducing adverse impact on the environment.”

To support achieving the vision, eight objectives have been set for the draft plan.



Te whakahaere tonu i ngā pahi i ngā wāhi pukumahi

Keeping buses moving in busy areas

The draft plan proposes introducing a new Objective 8: Reducing congestion to enhance productivity, which is not included in the current Regional Public Transport Plan.

As congestion increases in some urban areas, buses can become less reliable, and their journey times can increase. The draft plan places greater emphasis on improving reliability and helping public transport move more efficiently in busy urban areas.

This could include measures such as:

- **Bus lanes**
- **Traffic signal priority**
- **Queue jumping lanes**

The aim is to improve reliability and punctuality, making public transport a more practical and attractive option for more people. However, prioritising public transport can also involve trade-offs, including changes to how limited road space is allocated and used.



Tell us what you think

Do you support the inclusion of Objective 8, prioritising public transport on congested urban routes?

You can share your views in Question 3 of the submission form. Your feedback will help inform future decisions about reliability improvements and how road space is managed in growing urban areas.





Tukua tō kōrero

Have your say

The draft plan is available online at **participate.boprc.govt.nz/rptp-2026**
Hard copies are also available at Bay of Plenty Regional Council offices.

You are welcome to submit on any aspect of the draft plan. However, we are particularly interested in your views on the topics raised in this consultation document.

Consultation closes at 4pm Thursday 6 August 2026

Ka pēhea tētahi tuku kōrero ai

How to make a submission

You can:

- Complete the submission form online at **participate.boprc.govt.nz/rptp-2026**
- Email your submission to **RPTP@boprc.govt.nz**
- Post your completed submission form using this freepost address:
Freepost 122076 - RPTP 2026–2036 submissions
Bay of Plenty Regional Council,
PO Box 364, Whakatāne 3158
- You can also pick up and/or drop off a submission form at any Bay of Plenty Regional Council office:
 - 1118 Fenton Street, Rotorua
 - 1 Elizabeth Street, Tauranga
 - 5 Quay Street, Whakatāne

Ngā rā hirahira

Key dates

6 July 2026

Public consultation opens



6 August 2026

Public consultation closes



Hearings



Deliberations



December 2026

Regional Council adopts plan



participate.boprc.govt.nz/rptp-2026



TOI MOANA
BAY OF PLENTY
REGIONAL COUNCIL