

Ngā pahī o te rohe, ngā reo o te rohe

Local buses, local voices



Eastern Bay Public Transport Network Review

Feedback open:

Wednesday 23 July until
Wednesday 13 August 2025

Tukua tō kōrero Have your say



We're taking a fresh look at public bus services across the Eastern Bay of Plenty, to make sure they're working for the people who rely on them.

This review is a check-in to share our thinking, to see what's working for you, what's not, and where small changes could make a real difference.

With no new funding, any improvements must be balanced by changes elsewhere. That may mean a mix of service upgrades and reductions based on how people are travelling now, what the data shows, and what we've heard from the community.

Some services may become more direct, more reliable or better timed. Others may change or stop if they're used by very few people or no longer match current needs.

While we're focused on practical changes for now, your feedback will also help guide future decisions on where public transport could grow when funding allows.

What we've seen and heard to date:

- Some buses run late due to outdated timetables
- A few services are used by only a handful of people
- People want reliable connections to shops, services and other key destinations

While we are gathering feedback now, the service will run as usual until 2027. This gives us enough time to consider feedback and finalise the network to inform our new bus services contract for the Eastern Bay.

He aha e whakaarohia ana? What's being considered?

Improvements

- More direct and frequent services
- Route changes to better connect with Whakatāne CBD and The Hub
- Earlier and more reliable start times
- More suitable vehicle sizes with space for luggage or mobility aids (Route 150)

Reductions

- Stopping low-use routes
- Removing weekend or early/late trips for services with very few passengers
- Removing stops in areas with low demand

Ko tēhea o ngā wāhi me ngā ara ka panonihia? Which areas and routes could change?

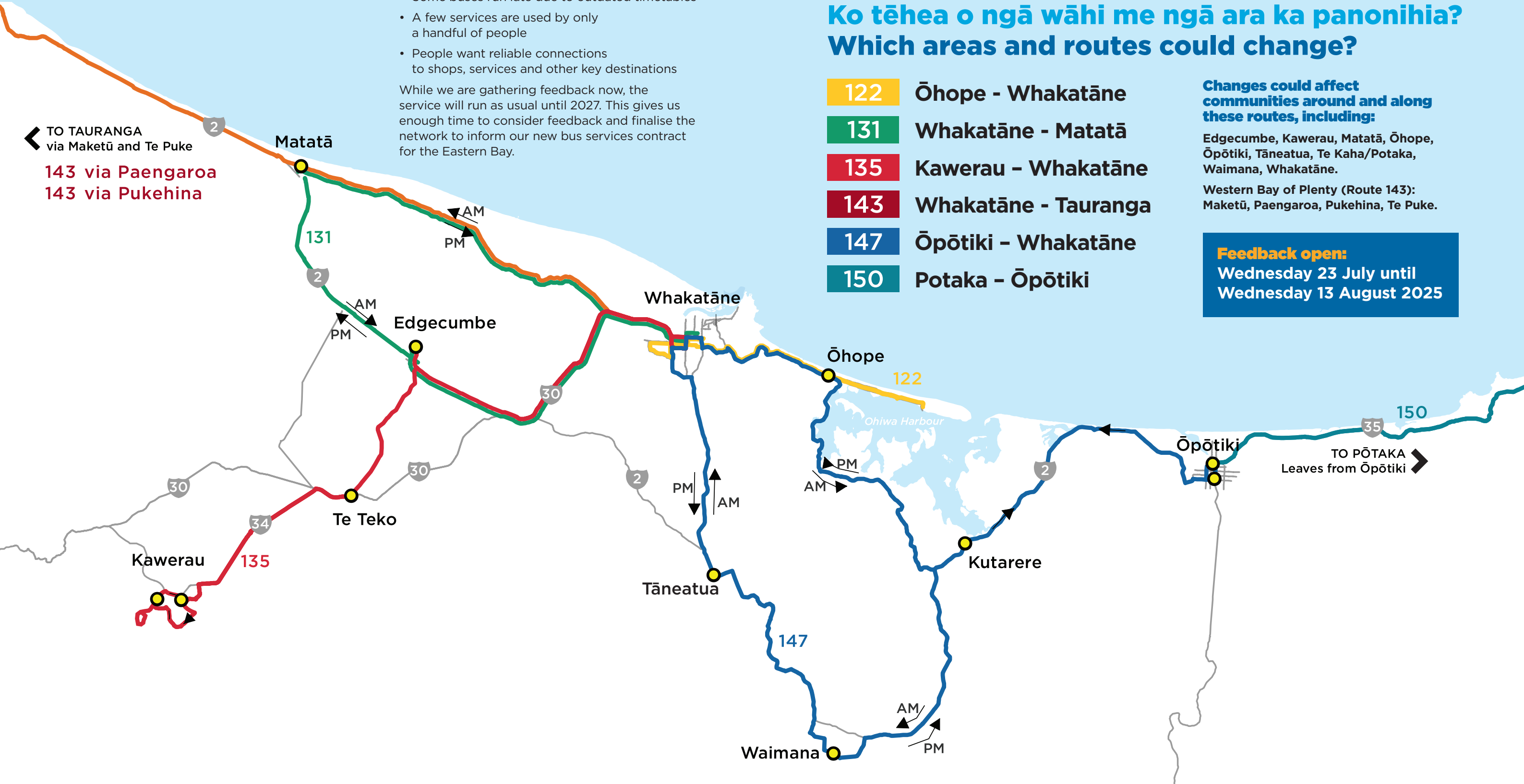
- 122 Ōhope - Whakatāne
- 131 Whakatāne - Matatā
- 135 Kawerau - Whakatāne
- 143 Whakatāne - Tauranga
- 147 Ōpōtiki - Whakatāne
- 150 Potaka - Ōpōtiki

Changes could affect communities around and along these routes, including:

Edgecumbe, Kawerau, Matatā, Ōhope, Ōpōtiki, Tāneatua, Te Kaha/Potaka, Waimana, Whakatāne.

Western Bay of Plenty (Route 143): Maketū, Paengaroa, Pukehina, Te Puke.

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Tukua tō kōrero
Have you say

Your details:

Name:

Phone number:

Email address:

Postal address:

Where do you live or most often catch the bus from?

Eastern Bay of Plenty:

- Edgecumbe Kawerau Matatā Ōhope Ōpōtiki Tāneatua Te Kaha / Potaka
- Waimana Whakatāne Other Eastern Bay (please specify):

Western Bay of Plenty (Route 143):

- Maketū Paengaroa Pukehina Te Puke

- I live outside these areas but use this bus (please specify from where):

Do you currently use the bus?

- Yes - regularly (at least once a week) Occasionally
- No - but someone in my household does No

Which routes do you or your whānau use most often?

- 122 131 135 143 147 150 Not sure

Te mea nui
What matters most

We're working with limited funding, so it's not always possible to increase frequency and keep coverage.

If we can't do both, which is more important to you?

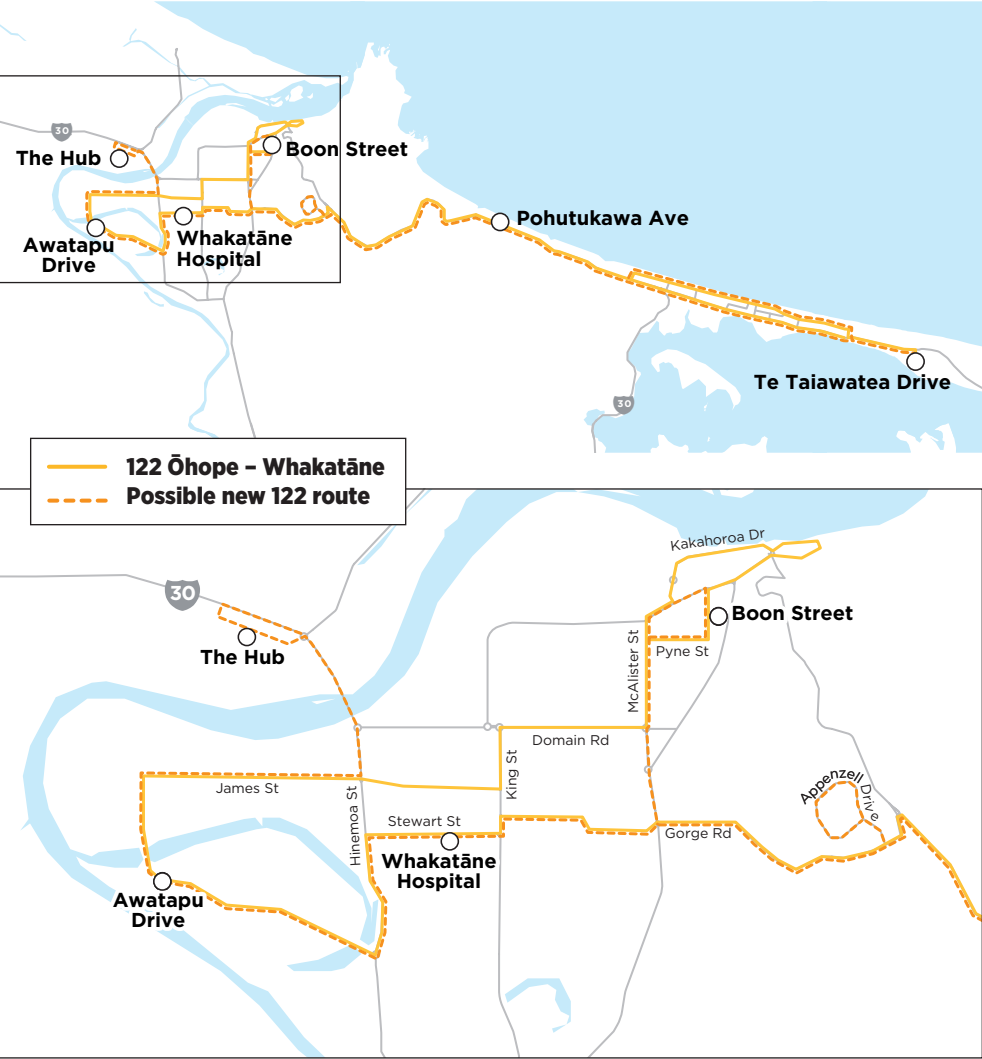
- Keeping coverage (buses to more places, less often)
- Improving frequency and reliability (fewer places, more often)

What would make it easier for you to use the bus? Select as many as you wish

- Buses that come more often Services that start earlier or finish later
- Buses that run when I need them (not just peak times) More reliable / on-time buses
- Shorter overall travel time Easier to follow timetables
- Better connections to shops, services and schools Easier access for people with mobility needs
- Nothing, I prefer other types of transport Other:

Ngā tono ara
Route proposals

ROUTE 122 Ōhope to Whakatāne (via Kopeopeo, Hospital and Awatapu)
Main town service for Ōhope and Whakatāne, linking people with shops, schools and the hospital. Currently running 7 return trips/day.



Proposed changes:

- Make the route more direct from Ōhope to the CBD (Boon Street stops), before continuing to the Hospital and Awatapu.
- Remove the Kakahoroa Drive stops due to low use and to reduce delays.
- Add weekday off-peak trips to The Hub shopping centre.
- Add a new stop near Appenzell Drive shops.
- Remove weekend services and evening trips (due to very low use).

What do you think?

- I support a more direct route through the CBD I support adding weekday off-peak trips to The Hub
- I support a new stop on Appenzell Drive I use the weekend service and want it to stay

Other thoughts on Route 122:

Whakatāne to Matatā (via Edgecumbe)

Proposed changes:

-

Other thoughts on Route 131:

Kawerau to Whakatāne (via Te Teko and Edgecumbe)

Proposed changes:

-
- The map shows the proposed 135 route from Kawerau to Whakatāne. The route is highlighted in red, with a dashed line indicating a possible new section. Key locations along the route include Kawerau, Te Teko, Edgecumbe, Awakeri, and Whakatāne. The map also shows the existing 135 route and other roads like Te Teko Rd, Domain Rd, and King St. A legend indicates the solid red line is the '135 Kawerau - Whakatāne' and the dashed red line is the 'Possible new 135 route'.

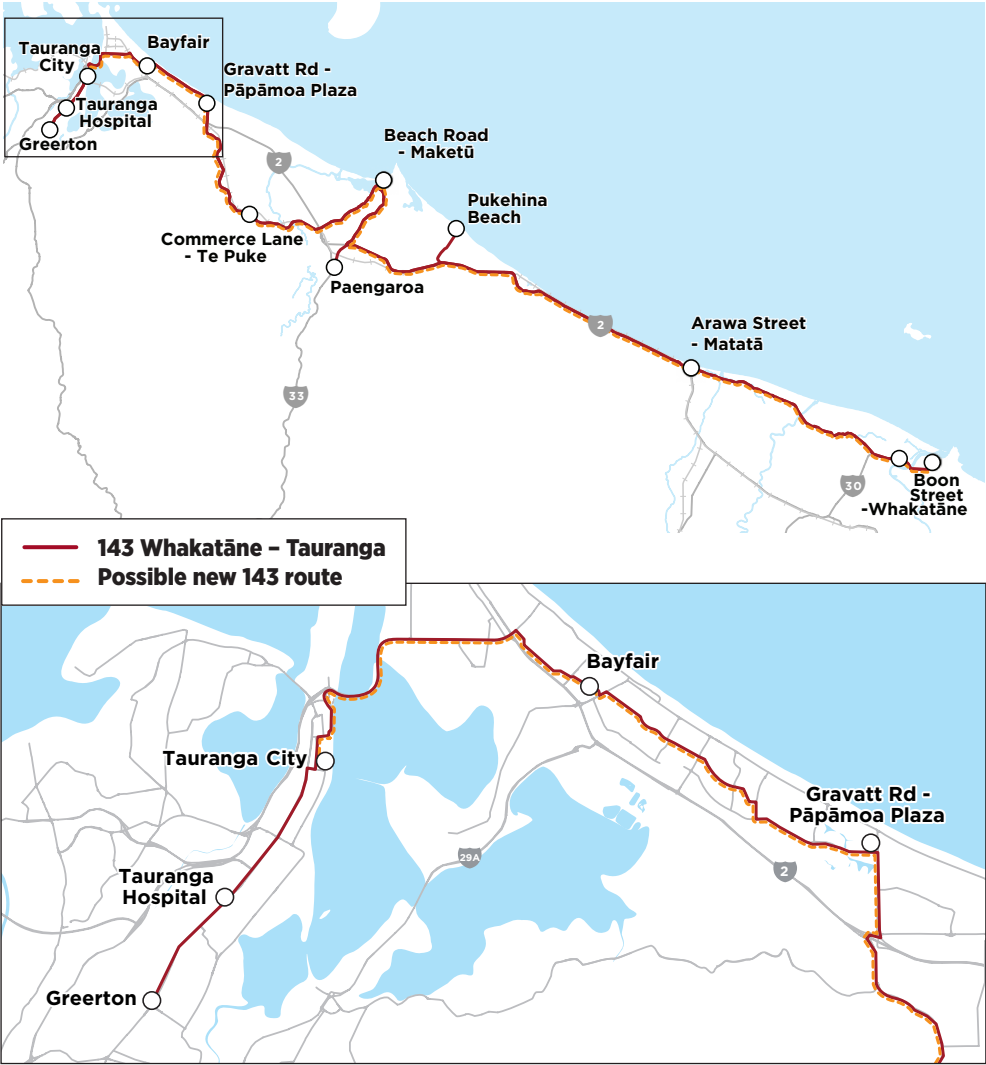
☐ Tuesday ☐ Thursday

Other thoughts on Route 135:

ROUTE
143

Whakatāne to Tauranga (via Maketu, Te Puke, Pāpāmoa and Bayfair)

Inter-regional route connecting the Eastern Bay to Tauranga, with stops in small Western Bay communities. Currently running 1 return trip, 6 days a week (Mon-Sat) and departs Whakatāne at 9:30am.



Proposed changes:

- Start trips earlier to allow more time in Tauranga.
- End the route at the Durham Street Interchange in Tauranga City (with connections available to other buses for the Hospital and Greerton).
- Remove stops in Paengaroa and Pukehina, to reduce travel time.
- Remove the Saturday service allowing resource to be used elsewhere.

What do you think?

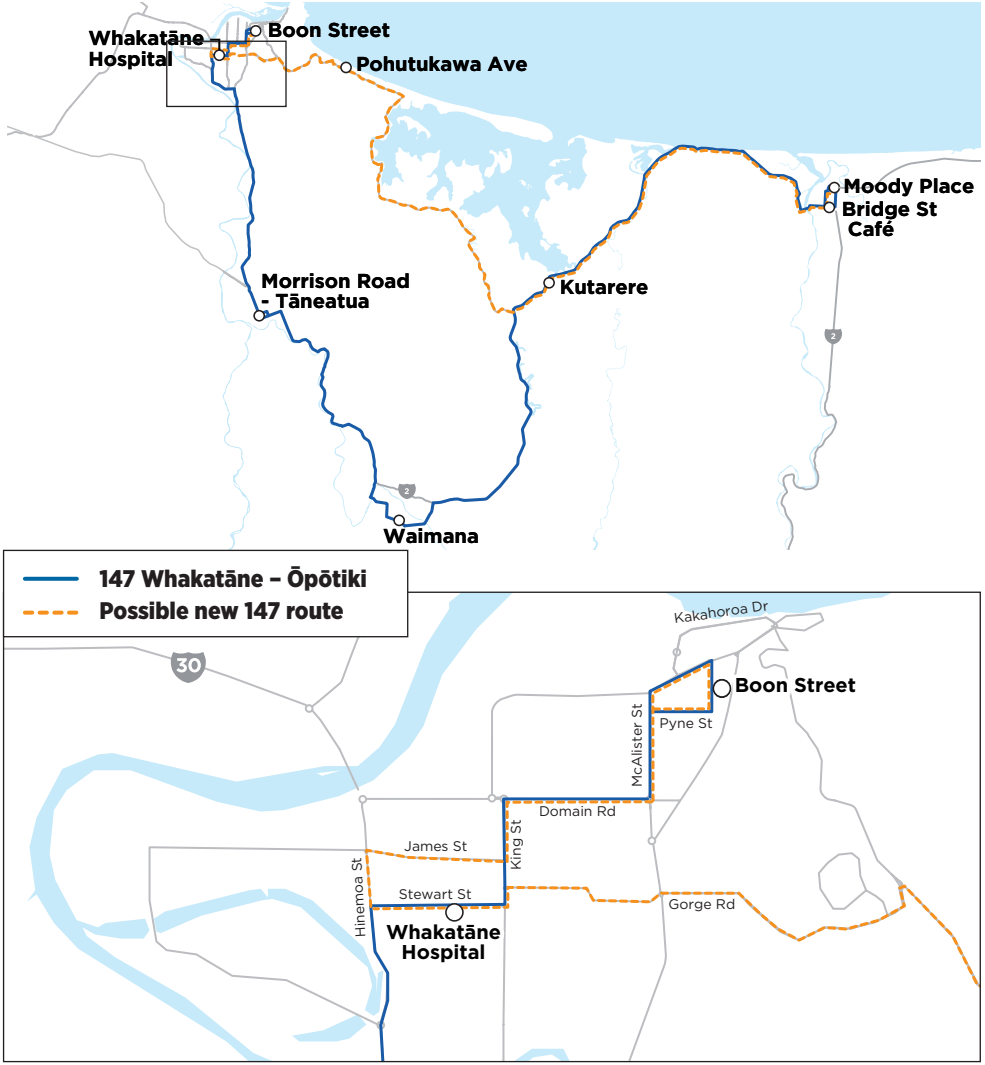
- ☐ I support starting trips earlier ☐ I support a more direct route to Tauranga
- ☐ I support removing the Saturday service
- ☐ I use the Western Bay stops (Pukehina and Paengaroa) and want them kept
- ☐ I use the Tauranga Hospital and/or Greerton stops and want them kept

Other thoughts on Route 143:

ROUTE
147

Ōpōtiki to Whakatāne (via Kutarere, Waimana, Tāneatua)

A twice-weekly (Mon and Wed) route for rural residents travelling to Whakatāne, with the ability to transfer on to Kawerau and Tauranga.



Proposed changes:

- Run more often and shorten the route to make the trip quicker.
- Remove the stops at Waimana and Tāneatua due to very low use (average 1 person per week) and reroute through Ōhope instead.

What do you think?

- ☐ I'd use this service if it ran more often and was a faster journey
- ☐ I use or support keeping the Waimana and Tāneatua stops
- ☐ There are other ways to support travel for Waimana and Tāneatua residents (please expand below)

Other thoughts on Route 147:

ROUTE
150

Potaka to Ōpōtiki

This service connects coast communities along State Highway 35 to Ōpōtiki and trips in the 14 seater van have become over full in recent years.

What do you think?

☐ I support using a larger vehicle with more space

Other thoughts on Route 150:

people, luggage,
and groceries.

Proposed changes:

- Use a larger vehicle with more room for people, luggage, and groceries.

He whakahoki kōrero anō? Any further feedback?

**Anything else you'd like to share? What works well?
What could work better? Please share your thoughts here:**



**Once completed
please send this form to:**

Freepost Number 122076
Eastern Bay Network Review Feedback
Bay of Plenty Regional Council
PO Box 364, Whakatāne 3158

**E āhei ana hoki koe ki te tuku i
ō whakahoki kōrero mā te ipurangi**

You can also give your feedback online

W boprc.govt.nz/eastern-bay-buses

E transport.admin@boprc.govt.nz



Feedback closes:
Wednesday
13 August 2025

