

Dear Adrienne,

GREYTOWN – WOODSIDE WEEKEND BUS SERVICE

You will no doubt be aware that as part of recent changes to regional Train & Bus services that the Greytown – Woodside Saturday Bus service has been deleted as shown in the publication of the Wairarapa Bus and Train Timetable effective from 15th July. The Greytown Community Board (GCB) wishes to express its extreme disappointment and concern about this, particularly as it was initiated without any form of local consultation.

The GCB believes the decision is a retrograde step in the evolution of public transport in Wairarapa and not in line with the GWRC Economic Development strategy. In the previous timetable - effective 30th April – 14th July – it was announced that the changes were – **‘to bring an upgraded , more connected public transport network to the Wellington region’**. Clearly the deletion of the Woodside – Greytown bus service is inconsistent with this objective!

Public concerns about the deletion of the service referred to include -

- A disconnect for visitors/travelers (including locals commuting for work) used to and expecting this Saturday bus service. [On Saturday 6th October visitors who embarked in Wellington and got off at Woodside were left stranded because of no bus to Greytown and reported this to the volunteer Greytown Information Centre who helped arrange return travel for them.]
- Ineffective advice to travelers/visitors of the need to transfer to a bus service at Featherston
- Unclear advice for passengers travelling from Greytown to Wellington that there is a bus service to Featherston station to connect with the train to Wellington

The current Timetable is considered both confusing and misleading. Simply making the comment - ** No service on weekends and public holidays (page 9 of unnumbered timetable) without reference to the way travelers to or from Greytown can connect with the train (page 5) is inadequate. Similarly, (page) 10 – ‘Wairarapa Public transport Network’ showing the Woodside – Greytown bus connection is likely to indicate to the visitor/tourist an every- day service.

Overall the GCB believes these deficiencies/ inconsistencies are at odds with regional tourism development initiatives and the concept of a ‘seamless’ transport system. As we are entering a generally busy, and growing tourist season the loss of the **Saturday only service** is regrettable and inconvenient. We believe the multi-million dollar upgrade of Wairarapa’s train track announced on 9th October supports the expected growth in demand and is consistent with joined-up regional tourism development strategies.

Yours sincerely,

Leigh Hay

Chairperson