

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

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#### Overview of Presentation

The Rotorua urban bus network has seen increasing patronage in the last decade, especially with the introduction of free travel for students of the Waiariki Institute of Technology. Whist additional services have been introduced to cater for this demand, the increased patronage is resulting in overcrowding at peak times.

Many of the current bus routes in Rotorua provide a relatively slow service compared to a trip by car, as the bus routes were designed to optimise coverage. This priority has changed, with the Bay of Plenty Regional Public Transport Plan 2013 setting out policies for high quality (frequent, reliable, convenient and efficient) urban services.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council places significant emphasis on cost effectiveness of services, and believes that the network has further potential to increase patronage with more direct, simple services.

In 2014 a review of the bus network was undertaken to inform future bus service contracts. The review included an analysis of socio-economic data to better understand gaps in the market currently being served.

This paper will explain the improvements identified affecting routes in the inner city and outer urban areas. It will also explain how these improvements were developed in consultaiton with a range of stakeholders.