



## Bus services



*Passenger kilometres travelled*  
*Average number of trips per person per year*

### Purpose of indicator

Passenger kilometres travelled on local bus services is an indicator of the extent to which public transport is being used. Choosing to use public transport over private motorised transport means less air and greenhouse gas pollution.

### Current information and trend

The use of public bus services shows a strong increasing long term trend. Since the last reporting period (2006), passenger kilometres travelled per year has increased from approximately 2.4 million to almost 5 million kilometres, shown in figure 1. Likewise, figure 2 shows an increase in number of passenger trips per year (based on Rotorua's urban population). Another significant milestone is that this year is the first year that passengers using the CityRide bus service exceeded 90,000 in a month.

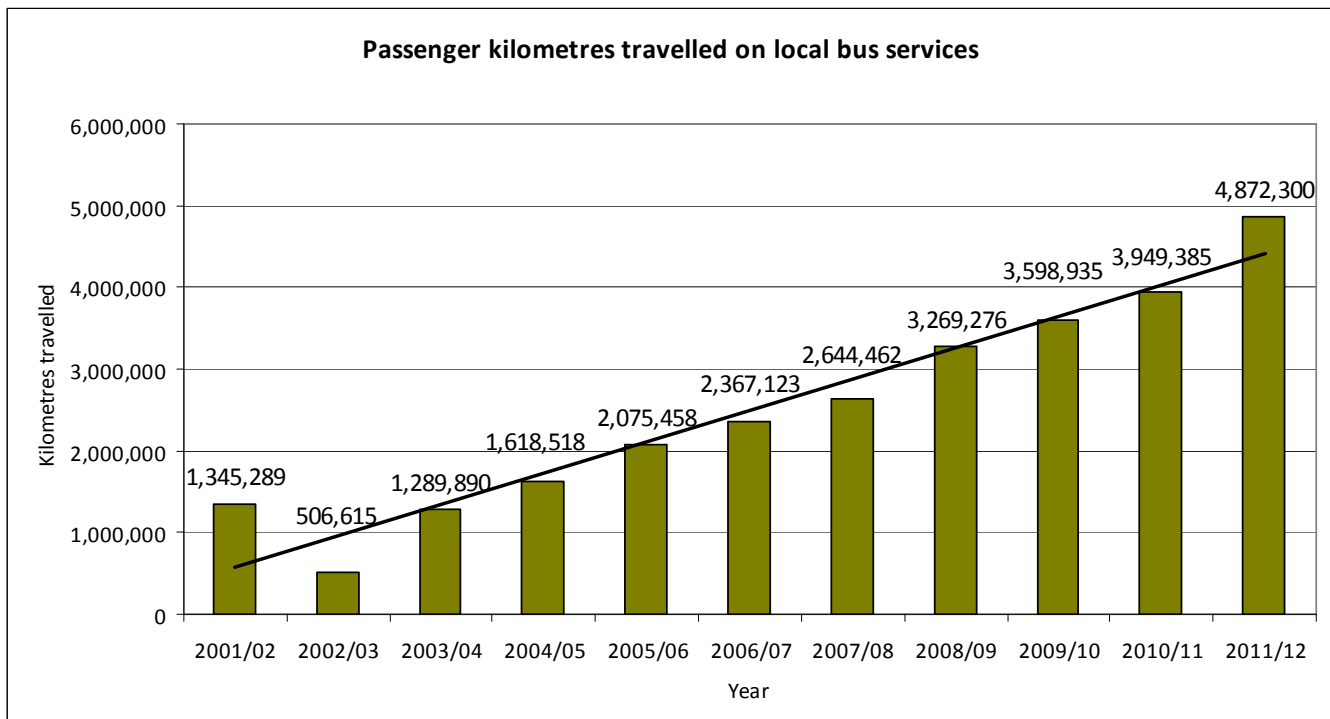


Figure 1.  
Source: Bay of Plenty Regional Council, 2012

In 2008 tertiary student passes for free travel were introduced which contributed to a greater number of passengers on all routes, but the greatest increase was for route 2 'Polytechnic' which features a stop at the Waiariki Institute of Technology. This route is now Rotorua's most popular route.

Public promotions have also contributed to increased passenger numbers and kilometres travelled. Examples include promotions such as:

- Free travel days for Smartcard holders
- Free travel for World Environment Day
- Free travel for kids on International Children's Day
- Free Sunday travel prior to Christmas
- Campaign to 'normalise' bus service frequencies
- Promotion of buses as part of sustainable transport promotion.

Bus services are addressed by the Regional Land Transport Strategy adopted in 2011 and the Regional Public Transport Plan adopted in 2012.

Both the Rotorua Transport Strategy and the Rotorua Urban Transportation Study look strategically at roading in the urban area. The Transport Strategy includes travel demand management, walking and cycling, and public transport. In addition to these, the Rotorua to Tauranga Corridor Development Strategy is being implemented. It aims at linking the two communities, particularly from an economic development and transport perspective.

To support bus services Council has proposed a passenger transport terminal to be located in the vicinity of the current Visitor Centre on Haupapa Street. The project is included in Council's Long-term Plan 2012-2022 pending funding from New Zealand Transport Agency. The transport terminal is planned to receive both local and interregional bus services.

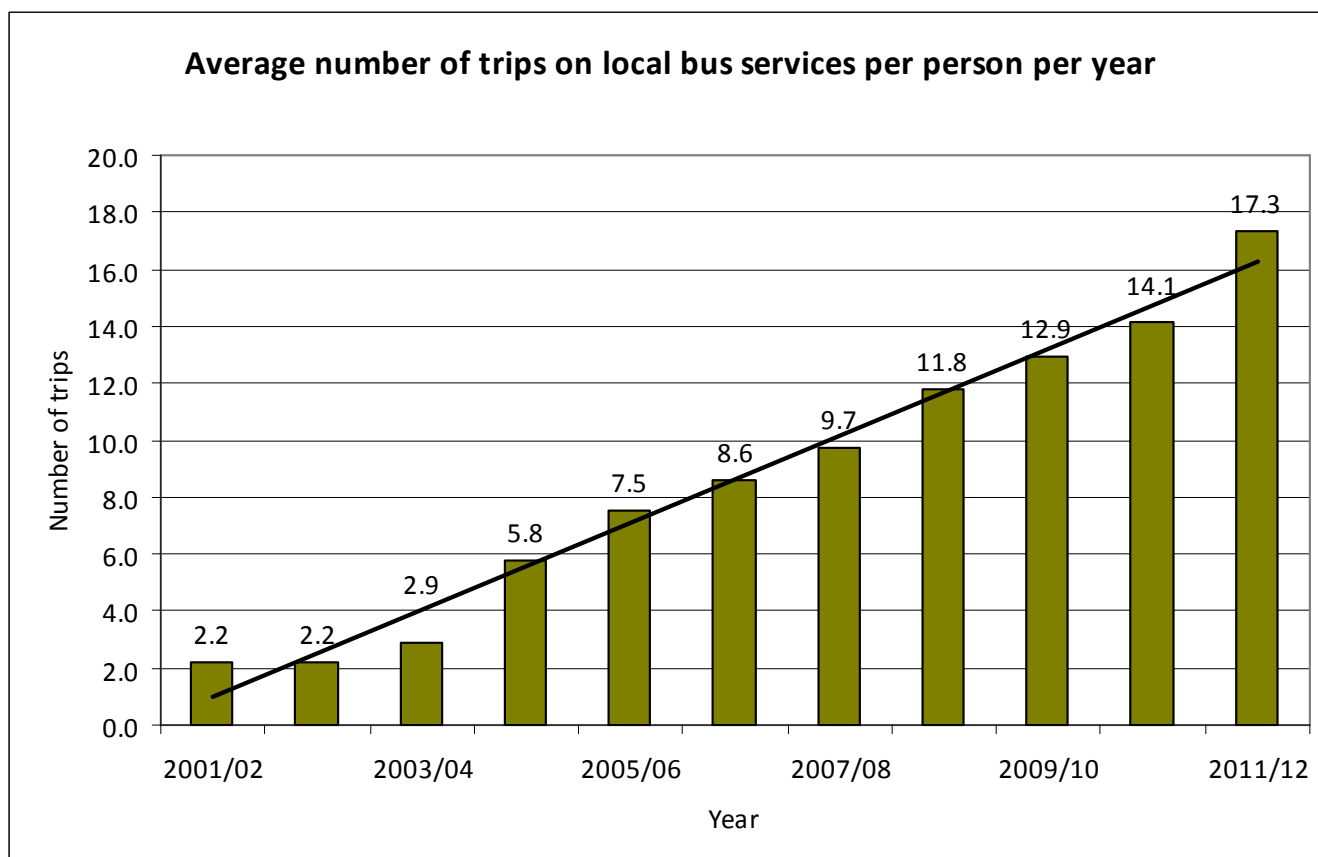


Figure 2.  
Source: Bay of Plenty Regional Council, 2012

### In summary

- Both passenger kilometres travelled and number of trips on local bus services have increased since 2007.

### Further information

[www.baybus.co.nz](http://www.baybus.co.nz)