

Mr Brian Baxter
Transport Advisor
Horizons.mw
Private Bag 11025
PALMERSON NORTH

14 February 02

Dear Brian

UCOL Travel Survey and Proposal for Free Bus Travel

Thank you for your letter dated 12 December 01 with a proposal to proceed with a trial for UCOL students and staff to travel free on the city buses.

UCOL would be delighted to take part in this trial and to pay \$20,000 for the year or part thereof should the trial not go over the full year.

There are two conditions that UCOL would want to be met as part of the trial. We would like the opportunity to do some sort of advertising on a bus or buses and we would like to co-operate with you over evaluating the value of this service to both students and staff.

I am available to meet with you to discuss these contractual issues as well as the routing and timing of bus schedules. I have enclosed samples of the 2002 staff and student ID cards.

UCOL would be pleased to get the trial underway as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Paddy Nicol
Policy and Communications Co-ordinator

UCOL TRAVEL SURVEY

horizons.mw (the trading name of the Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council) is responsible for providing the bus service in Palmerston North. **horizons.mw** is considering allowing UCOL students and staff to travel free on the city buses. The scheme is similar to that proposed for Massey University. You can help us with our preparations for this new service by completing the following survey form.

1. Are you a UCOL - student?
- staff?
2. What hours are you normally at UCOL? _____
3. How do you normally travel to UCOL (Tick one box only)
 - drive a car
 - passenger in a car
 - bicycle
 - motor bike
 - bus
 - walk
 - other
4. If you drove a car, where did you park?
 - UCOL Car-park
 - On street
 - Other

How much per day did you pay for that park? _____

5. If the bus was free, would you use it to travel to UCOL?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Maybe

If not, why not? _____

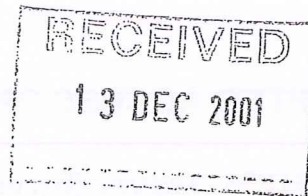
Thank-you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Brian Baxter
Transport Advisor to horizons.mw

**PLEASE RETURN TO CLASS REP, UCOLSA OFFICE, BOX OUTSIDE
LIBRARY ENTERANCE**

12 December 2001

The Chief Executive
UCOL
Private Bag 11 022
PALMERSTON NORTH



RT 04 23
BSB:DLS

John - Please action attached survey
& make contact with Brian as requested.
Thanks.
cel
13/12/01

Dear Sir

UCOL Travel Survey and Proposal for Free Bus Travel

As you may know, we have been investigating proposals to allow UCOL students and staff to travel free on the city buses. We have now virtually completed our investigations, which included a survey of the travel patterns of UCOL students and staff.

Thank-you for the opportunity to undertake that survey and attached for your information are the results of the survey. The results indicate strong support for free travel on the city buses, with 70% of students and 34% of staff indicating that they would use the bus if it was free.

We are keen to proceed with a trial of the free bus scheme. There are clear congestion and parking benefits to the city from encouraging the students and staff to use the bus rather than their cars. There are also benefits to UCOL in having less pressure on the available parking, perhaps being able to provide fewer parks, and making it easier and cheaper for students to attend UCOL courses.

If we were to allow students and staff to travel free on the city buses, we would expect some payment from UCOL to compensate for the lost revenue from those students who currently use the buses. The survey indicated that approx.10% of students currently use the buses. Politically, we believe that it is also important that we are able to say to those passengers that do have to pay, that the free student/staff travel isn't really free - it is paid for indirectly by UCOL rather than directly by the students and staff.

We have calculated, from the survey and from driver and the bus company information, that the loss in revenue from the service would be \$40,000 per year. However we are likely to be able to obtain a subsidy of 50% for that from Transfund New Zealand, meaning the annual cost to UCOL would be \$20,000.

We would like to start the service early next year on a trial basis. Can I suggest we meet soon to discuss further?

Yours sincerely

Brian Baxter
TRANSPORT ADVISOR to horizons.mw

Encl Copy of Survey Results



UNLIMITED ACCESS PROJECT

UCOL Travel Survey

Background

horizons.mw (the Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council) has been investigating the concept of "unlimited access" bus services.

Unlimited access bus services are those where certain segments of the population have unlimited free access to certain bus services. horizons.mw has previously investigated the concept as it might apply to Massey University students and staff. It is now also considering applying the concept to UCOL students and staff.

Student and Staff Numbers

The UCOL Palmerston North campus is centred in the middle of Palmerston North. It is difficult to accurately indicate student numbers because many work on a part-time basis on a variety of days and nights of the week. However approximately 2000 students and 200 staff attend the campus on a full-time or near full-time basis.

Parking

There are 450 UCOL car-parks. Most of these are "hunt and find" parks which cost \$1 per day. There is free parking at a UCOL car-park in near-by Ngata St. Only cars displaying a UCOL sticker are eligible to use these parks. There is free on-campus parking for car-pool cars displaying a car-pool sticker.

Car-parking is also available in the off-street city council car-park in Queen St (pay and display), and on King, Queen, and other city streets adjacent to UCOL (either pay and display, or time-restricted parking).

Travel Survey

Before considering how an unlimited access service at UCOL might work however, it was necessary to survey the current travel patterns of staff and students.

The Survey Results

A survey of staff and students was undertaken at UCOL in July 2001. Staff were surveyed via an email questionnaire. Students were surveyed through forms distributed to them.

178 students and 108 staff completed the survey. That represents an approximately 9% response rate from students and 50% response rate from staff.

The results from each of the questions is as follows:

1. When do you normally start work?

	Students	Staff
8am	50%	82%
9am	44%	14%
10am	6%	1%
11am	0%	0%
Noon	0%	1%
1pm	0%	0%

The survey indicates that virtually all students and staff start at either 8am or 9am.

2. When do you normally finish work?

	Students	Staff
Noon	2%	0%
1pm	2%	3%
2pm	2%	2%
3pm	18%	6%
4pm	20%	3%
5pm	49%	73%
6pm	7%	13%

The survey indicates that most students finish between 3pm and 5pm, and most staff finish at 5pm or later.

3. What is your normal means of travel to UCOL?

	Students	Staff
Drive a car	55%	80%
Passenger in car	14%	9%
bicycle	7%	3%
motor bike	1%	1%
bus	10%	3%
walk	12%	4%
other	1%	0%

The car is the most popular form of transport to UCOL, with 69% of students and 89% of staff using a car. 10% of students and 3% of staff currently use the bus.

4. If you drove a car, where did you park?

	Students	Staff
UCOL car-park	74%	78%
On Street	23%	8%
Other	3%	14%

The UCOL car-parks are the most popular. 23% on students park on the street.

5. How much did you pay for the car-park?

	Students	Staff
\$1	54%	60%
\$2	6%	2%
\$3	3%	1%
\$4	6%	0%
\$5	7%	0%
Free	24%	37%

97% of staff either pay \$1 or less for parking, with the one dollar car-park being the most popular. The pattern is the same for students although the numbers are a bit lower, with 78% paying a dollar or less.

The \$1 UCOL car-parks are the most popular, although many park in the free Ngata St. car-park.

6. If the bus was free, would you use it to travel to UCOL?

	Students	Staff
Yes	70%	34%
No	16%	38%
Maybe	14%	28%

70% of students said they were likely to use a bus if it was free. 34% of staff said they would use the bus. Many staff said they would not use it because they either lived out of town, or needed their car for other activities, such as dropping children off at school.

Survey Summary

There was quite a difference between the survey results from the staff and the students. Staff were more reliant on cars and seemed to get most of the cheap UCOL car-parks (probably because they started work earlier than the students).

Students were more likely to use the free bus, with 70% saying they were likely to use it compared to 34% of staff.

10% of students already use the bus. This is the equivalent of 200 students per day.