

**WALKING, CYCLING & MOBILITY
REFERENCE GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING TUESDAY 8 JUNE 2021
REMOTE LOCATION: SKYPE VIDEO CALL, 5:00 PM**



Reference Group Members in attendance:

- Cr David Brown Chair, Councillor Delegate
- Cr Mithra Cox Councillor Delegate
- Fiona Myer Access Needs of People with a Disability Representative (Skype)
- Jon Lindley Bicycle Users Representative
- Chye Toole-Anstey Pedestrians Representative (Skype)
- Beth Robrahn Families with Children Representative
- Edward Birt Pedestrian Representative (Skype)

Wollongong City Council (WCC) Staff in attendance:

- Trish McClure Manager, Infrastructure Strategy and Planning
- Isabelle Ghetti Transport and Stormwater Services Manager (Acting)
- Andrew Byers Traffic and Transport Unit Leader (Acting)
- Walter Galvan Senior Traffic and Transport Planner/Engineer ISP
- Justin Miles Senior Traffic and Transport Planner/Engineer ISP
- Sarah Leussink Community Development Worker Aged + Disability CCED
- Daniela Di Lullo PA Infrastructure Strategy & Planning – Minutes

1 WELCOME & OPENING OF MEETING

Meeting Opened 5:10 pm

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair welcomed all and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land.

1.2 Apologies

Brian Gardner, Access Needs of People with a Disability Representative
Tracy Venaglia, WCC Coordinator Community Development & Social Planner

1.3 Disclosures of Interest

No conflicts of interest declared.

1.4 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting held 13 April 2021

The confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting were postponed to the next meeting as Beth advised she didn't have sufficient time to review them. The minutes should be corrected to reflect that Brian Gardner was an apology.

2 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – 13 APRIL 2021

- Brian Gardner was an apology for the last meeting. Minutes to be updated.
- Beth requested the adoption of the 13 April minutes be held over to the next meeting and Cr Brown agreed.
- Trish McBride tendered her resignation. Formal vote of thanks to her from the Committee. Trish McClure advised a letter has been sent to Trish, on behalf of Council, thanking her for her representation.

3 SAFETY AROUND SCHOOLS (STANDING ITEM)

Presentation by Justin Miles, Senior Traffic Engineer (WCC)

- Cr Cox declared an interest in Corrimal East Public School as her children attend the school.
- With regard to Corrimal East Public School, Beth raised drivers using Murray Road and Duff Parade as a rat run to avoid traffic lights. Justin advised they will be meeting with the schools in the near future to discuss.

- Andrew Byers advised they have spoken to TfNSW to extend the length of the school zone at Thirroul Public School following concerns raised by the P&C.
- Trish mentioned that sometimes solutions to alleviate school safety may affect other areas, such as flooding at Holy Spirit, and requested patience as congestion lasts for 10-15 minutes.
- Jon Lindley provided a presentation on Benefits of Lower Speed Limits – Safer Streets for People Walking in Wollongong. Jon was thanked for his presentation.
- Cr Cox raised the changes to federal guidelines for standards for pedestrian crossings and requested an update from Council on what the changes mean. Justin advised warrants still exist, however, TfNSW has made clear they only apply to the state network they maintain. For Council roads we need to consider if appropriate. Trish advised warrant is one of many tools used to determine whether to install crossings.
- Beth mentioned it is an opportunity for local Councils to develop their own guidelines for pedestrian crossings that may be different to what has been applied for state guidelines. Parramatta Council has developed their own guidelines.
- Trish advised that Council is working with TfNSW on where we can pilot 30km/hour zones.
- Beth mentioned the new Road User Space Allocation Policy prioritises walking and cycling over driving.

4 CYCLING POD

Presentation by Sarah Leussink, Community Development Worker Aged + Disability (WCC)

- Chye raised she would like to see more community engagement around safety as it is a community issue. **Action:** Sarah to take safety issues back to her team.
- Edward commented that this lines up with the free cyclability program at the Disability Trust and he is seeing the benefits of people riding in a safe environment as people with disabilities are not able to get involved in active transport. He is happy to be involved in this Council initiative.
- Beth suggested Council contact Fiona Campbell or Matt Austin from City of Sydney Council. **Action:** Sarah to follow up.
- Beth enquired if a representative from the Cycling POD is involved in the Champions Advisory Group. **Action:** Sarah to follow up.
- Edward commented in order to emphasize learning through the discussion about expertise there is a need for people who are passionate and know cycling to get these things across the line. UCI will provide lots of opportunity.

5 CYCLING STRATEGY (STANDING ITEM)

Presentation by Walter Galvan, Senior Traffic Engineer (WCC)

- Chye asked if evaluation of user and observer perceptions of safety will be undertaken about the mixed use treatments. Walter confirmed they will be doing this.
- Cr Cox asked when the evaluation is going to take place. Walter advised this will occur 12 months following use. They are talking to TfNSW about traffic signal sites and improvements, but this will not occur before the 12 month period.
- Jon asked regarding feedback. Walter advised they will be going out to residents in July inviting feedback. Isabelle mentioned this feedback will provide ongoing monitoring and learnings that we will translate to the next round of consultation.

- Beth mentioned ibug carried out an audit of the Smith Street pop up cycleway. Walter advised he has been in discussions with Werner Steyer and is waiting to receive the ibug audit.

6 TOWN CENTRES ACCESS AND MOVEMENT STRATEGIES

Presentation by Walter Galvan, Senior Traffic Engineer (WCC)

- Beth enquired if Council would consider trialling 30km/hour speed zones on the streets marked yellow (places for people) and green (local streets) slide 17 – “movement and place”. Walter advised Council can consider this.
- Cr Cox mentioned discussions regarding buses in Wollongong. Trish McClure is advocating for TfNSW to develop a bus plan from a strategic perspective. Beth advised she can provide contacts for City of Sydney as they took the lead on a bus plan in Green Square in collaboration with TfNSW.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

- **E-Mail received from Brian Gardner dated 7 June 2021** – Issues raised with kerb ramps and safe wheelchair access. Council staff contacted Brian to locate exact locations. One location can be addressed, the other location is more difficult. Chye asked if there is a scope for a more holistic approach. **Action:** Council to ensure we are addressing the key issues raised by users, as well as drainage impacts.
- **Feedback** - Beth raised the importance of feedback being addressed not just in isolation but in guidelines and specifications and advised that when the reference group was established there was interest in helping to improve technical specifications. Isabelle suggested aligning the desire of the group with the charter and the purpose of the Reference Group. Isabelle mentioned the UCI is a priority at the moment. Beth acknowledged the UCI, however, also acknowledged there are also other priorities.
- Beth mentioned feeling like we are being listened to differently this meeting and appreciates this.
- **Presentation from Landscape Team** - Landscape team putting together a presentation for the next meeting. **Action:** Chye to e-mail issues to be addressed.
- **Next Meeting** – Beth suggested to establish the next meeting will be in person and the order of the agenda changed so the review of the Committee and charter be discussed before the standing items. Cr Cox agreed as last meeting before the Council elections.

Chye requested that the agenda be sent out earlier. Cr Brown suggested a draft agenda earlier than final agenda closer to the meeting. **Action:** Review of the Committee and Charter to be an agenda item for the next meeting. Agenda to be sent out as early as possible.

Meeting closed 7.10pm. Next meeting – Tuesday 10 August 2021

Next agenda – include prioritisation of footpath and bike network.