

MINUTES

ACTIVE TRANSPORT REFERENCE GROUP

5PM ON TUESDAY 24 MAY 2016

PRESENT	
Councillor Ann Martin	Wollongong City Council
Councillor Jill Merrin	Wollongong City Council
Councillor George Takacs	Wollongong City Council
Mike Dowd	Wollongong City Council
Werner Steyer	Illawarra Bicycle User Group
Phil Latz	Bicycle Community Representative
Lachlan Anderson	Pedestrian Community Representative

IN ATTENDANCE	
Peter Nunn	Wollongong City Council
Walter Galvan	Wollongong City Council

1. APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Naomi Reid. Councillor Bede Crasnich was absent.
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Nil
3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2016.

Recommendation: The minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2016 be confirmed as a true and accurate record

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Werner Steyer requested that Council provide feedback to members of the community who provide submissions to Council regarding projects as well as those who notify Council of walking and cycling network problems. Mike Dowd indicated that feedback cannot often be provided on an individual basis for large projects due to the volume of responses but should usually be provided where requests are raised on individual issues to Council's Customer Service Team. An example where individual response may not be provided is where a customer request a pothole repair.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

ITEM 1 – CITY OF WOLLONGONG BIKE PLAN UPDATE

The action plan listing from the bike plan was tabled with information on the status of each item. A number of points were raised and discussed in relation to the information provided and the bike plan generally.

It was noted that an update of the Wollongong Cycling Map had been done in 2014 and that an update was due in 2016. It was asked whether the future Smith Street and Kembla Street cycleways would be shown on the next iteration and the group was informed that imminent new cycleways would be shown and labelled as to be constructed. A decision on whether Smith Street would be shown would be made when construction timing is known.

The possibility of updating the future bicycle network maps in the Bike Plan on a more frequent basis than the 5 yearly document cycle was discussed to provide a level of flexibility. It was acknowledged that the document text already notes that final cycleway locations may differ to the maps shown in the Bike Plan due to issues/alternatives found during detailed site investigation and the design process. Ann Martin noted that adopting a plan with key future links shown is important politically so that high level support to be given to projects on those links. Mike

Dowd suggested that the next iteration of the bike plan would have an implementation plan that is not part of the plan itself but linked to it.

ITEM 2 – CITY OF WOLLONGONG PEDESTRIAN PLAN UPDATE

Walter Galvan gave an update on the current status of the pedestrian plan. Jill Merrin requested that key elements of the pedestrian plan be brought to the group for review and discussion.

Walter Galvan noted that the pedestrian plan can include information of the different types of pedestrian crossings and where they are suitable, an example being zebra crossings which often get requested by members of the community but are not often suitable due to safety reasons. George Takacs and Jill Merrin suggested that marked foot (zebra) crossings should be installed in more locations in the city and the Council staff seem to favour other crossing types where zebra crossings could be preferable. The example was given of Sutherland Shire where there are many more zebra crossings but not greater numbers of pedestrian crashes.

Werner Steyer suggested that a unified Active Transport Plan for the city would be preferable to a separate Bike Plan and Pedestrian Plan as is now the case.

Mike Dowd noted that due to the scale of the pedestrian infrastructure network compared to the bicycle network, the pedestrian plan will not include a future street but street pedestrian network in the way that the bike plan included a set of future bicycle network maps. It was noted that group members will have the opportunity to review a draft plan in July following which the wider community would have the opportunity to provide feedback during a public exhibition period. Ann Martin requested that information on the draft plan be sent to past members of the Active Transport Reference Group to give them the opportunity to comment.

Recommendation: Provide group members opportunity to review key elements/proposals of pedestrian plan at next meeting

George Takacs requested that the pedestrian plan seek to address the issue of potentially unnecessary pedestrian fencing such as fencing on Crown Street west in the vicinity of the Piccadilly site. Mike Dowd indicated that Council was liaising with RMS on what appears to be inconsistent application of treatments between RMS regions. George Takacs also noted that the length of short pedestrian walk times at traffic signals is a problem for the elderly and less mobile.

Lachlan Anderson suggested that the pedestrian plan needs address walking to schools and consider the all hours needs of pedestrian in relevant locations such as Wollongong City Centre.

ITEM 3 – SMITH STREET AND KEMBLA STREET CYCLEWAY UPDATE

Walter Galvan gave an update on the status of the Smith Street Kembla Street cycleway project and table a set of design plans. It was noted that the traffic modelling of the scheme was about to commence with an anticipated finish of early July. Mike Dowd noted that the construction phase will be staged due to the scale of the overall project. The Smith Street portion will be built first followed by the Kembla Street portion.

ITEM 4 – KERB RAMP AND DRIVEWAY CROSSING STANDARDS

Jill Merrin described her two notices of motion; one regarding non-complaint kerb ramps and the other regarding the negative impact of driveways on footpath cross falls and safety. It was also noted that some poor development works resulted in poor continuity of safe, accessible footpaths. Issues with driveway impacts on footpaths included trip hazards and confusion over pedestrian right of way caused by driveway surface finish and poor crossfall. Peter Nunn noted that the existing topography and/or utility services at certain locations preclude the provision of compliant footway crossings or kerb ramps. Jill Merrin suggested that only compliant footpath infrastructure should be installed, if compliance can't be achieved then no infrastructure should be provided.

ITEM 5 – RMS FUNDED PROJECTS UPDATE

Walter Galvan tabled a list of RMS funded projects for the 2015/16 financial year including information on project status as well as a list of RMS funded projects for the 2016/17 financial year.

Werner Steyer noted that the submission period for NSW Government Funding 2017/18 opens on 1 July 2016. He also indicated that there are opportunities for 100% funding which Council should bid for.

ITEM 6 – BEATON PARK PRECINCT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

It was noted that a Beaton Park Needs Assessment was recently reported to Council. Mike Dowd noted that the broad principles in page V of the Beaton Park needs assessment deal, in part, with active transport. Werner Steyer

requested that in future, active transport components be marked in documents that are sent to the group for comment, particularly in lengthy documents.

ITEM 7 – IMPROVING SHARED PATH USER BEHAVIOUR

Werner Steyer suggested a three part approach to improving behaviour of users on shared paths including: 1: correctly marked cycleways, 2: behavioural signage and markings and 3: temporary posters/banners brought out to key locations during peak periods. Werner Steyer also mentioned the NSW Government research on shared path behaviour that did not find any benefits to the use of suggested speed signage but did find improved pedestrian and cyclist behaviour from the use of a centreline.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 5pm on **Tuesday 2 August 2016**.

ACTION SUMMARY

No.	Meeting Date	Action	Officer	Status
13	21.11.13	Traffic Unit to investigate development related mechanisms for the next DCP review where private developments make parking available to the general public outside trading hours	WG	To proceed as part on next DCP review
42	24.5.16	Key pedestrian plan elements/proposals to be presented to Group for feedback	WG	To be completed