

MINUTES

ACTIVE TRANSPORT REFERENCE GROUP

5PM ON TUESDAY 2 FEBRUARY 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

IN ATTENDANCE

Walter Galvan	Wollongong City Council
Sally Anderson	Wollongong City Council
Jerah Fox	Wollongong City Council

1. APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Lachlan Anderson, Phil Latz and Naomi Reid.
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Nil
3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2015.

Recommendation: The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2015 be confirmed as a true and accurate record subject to the addition of the following action in relation to the tabled Blue Mile design plans:

“Council to reconsider provision of pedestrian priority crossing on the northern leg of the George Hanley Drive – Cliff Road intersection in light of the very high pedestrian and bicycle crossing demand”

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Werner Steyer requested that an item be added to the action summary in relation to confirmation of necessary vehicle barrier locations in the planned Fred Finch Park works given recent changes to local permitter fencing which prevents access to the wetlands to the south of the park

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

ITEM 1 – WOLLONGONG CITY CENTRE PUBLIC SPACES PUBLIC LIFE

Officers from Council’s Land Use Planning Team provided an overview of the draft Wollongong City Centre Public Spaces Public Life document that is on public exhibition until 3 March 2016. A key component of the vision that the document lays out for the City Centre is an environment which prioritises pedestrian amenity and movement over the private motor vehicle.

The range of available community consultation opportunities were described including visits to schools to gather feedback from students as well as a number of kiosks in key locations around the city and contact with a range of focus groups. Furthermore a survey of 9 questions is being distributed online to many stakeholders. The survey takes around 5 minutes and it was requested that group members complete the survey during the exhibition period.

Discussion of key locations and proposals addressed in the draft included the following points:

- The substantial improvement of West Crown street including access to Wollongong train station will require significant change to the Piccadilly site and it was acknowledged that strata ownership and management issues have prevented this in the past.
- Werner Steyer indicated that the realisation of a cycleway link on Burelli Street from the railway station will be difficult to realise and alternate options should be considered.
- George Takacs suggested that the lack of vegetation within the significant pavement area recently constructed at the Burelli Street – Auburn Street – Station Street traffic signals was a lost opportunity.
- Any wayfinding for bicycles resulting from the public spaces public life proposals should be consistent with other city wide bicycle wayfinding signage.

ITEM 2 – NSW GOVERNMENT CYCLING SAFETY PACKAGE

Werner Steyer tabled the NSW Government Cycling Safety Action Plan September 2015 Update which lists the work to date by the NSW Government on the numerous action plan items. The following items were discussed in relation to opportunities for Council to improve cycling in the city through NSW Government assistance:

- Council may be able to receive partnership funding Connecting Centres Cycling Program for bicycle rider skill and confidence workshops
- The NSW Government maintains the Cycleway Finder tool that provides safe cycling information via the CRS, RMS and TfNSW websites. Council should liaise with the NSW Government to ensure that the Wollongong area information in the tool is accurate.
- RMS, in conjunction with local councils, is installing warning signage on certain high speed motor vehicle routes that are also popular with bicycle users. It is unknown whether locations in Wollongong would qualify as the example given in the update was for Sydney motorways.

RMS Conducts regional cycling forums with stakeholders such as bicycle user groups, local councils and other road users. Such forums cover issues such as funding opportunities, CRS campaigns and local recreation & cycling transport issues. Council had not been notified of these forum meetings for some time and it was noted that RMS will be contacted in relation to future dates.

The changes to rider penalties and shared path rules in the Cycling Safety Package were discussed. It was acknowledged that the new safety advisory recommendation for bicycle riders to provide a minimum distance of one metre when passing pedestrians on a shared path, where practical, could mean significant changes to the design of shared paths and the areas directly beside them. Council will await the NSW Government new road safety campaign – ‘Go Together’ which will address these changes to help determine necessary alterations to any local education campaigns.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 5pm on **Tuesday 24 May 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
40	2.12.15	Council to reconsider provision of pedestrian priority crossing on the northern leg of the George Hanley Drive – Cliff Road intersection in light of the very high pedestrian and bicycle crossing demand	LD	Complete
41	2.12.15	Confirm necessary vehicle barrier locations in Fred Finch Park given recent changes to local perimeter fencing which prevents access to the wetlands to the south of the park. Update design plan accordingly.	WG	In progress