

# **WALKING, CYCLING AND MOBILITY REFERENCE GROUP MINUTES**



**6 December 2022**

# WALKING, CYCLING & MOBILITY REFERENCE GROUP

## MINUTES OF MEETING TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2022

REMOTE LOCATION: MICROSOFT TEAMS, 5:00 PM

### Reference Group Members in attendance:

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| • Cr David Brown | Chair, Councillor Delegate   |
| • Cr Mithra Cox  | Councillor Delegate  |
| • Jeremy Morgan  | Delegate, Manager, Infrastructure Strategy and Planning                              |
| • Edward Birt    | Access Needs of People with a Disability Representative                              |
| • Helen Meekosha | Access Needs of People with a Disability/Access Needs of Older People Representative |
| • Lena Huda      | Access Needs of Families with Children Representative                                |
| • Jon Lindley    | Bicycle Users Representative   |
| • Timothy Pier   | Pedestrians Representative   |
| • Lise Chesnais  | Pedestrians Representative   |
| • Beth Robrahn   | Bicycle Users Representative   |
| • Melanie Barnes | Student Representative   |
| • Justin Miles   | Transport NSW  |

### Wollongong City Council (WCC) Staff in attendance:

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| • Jerah Fox      | Traffic and Transport Unit Leader (Acting)                 |
| • Cole Hendrigan | Senior Transport Planner/Engineer                          |
| • Glenda Fewings | Admin Officer Infrastructure Strategy & Planning – Minutes |

## 1 WELCOME & OPENING OF MEETING

### Meeting Opened 5:06pm

#### 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

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

#### 1.2 Apologies

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| • Cr Dom Figliomeni | Councillor Delegate                                 |
| • Joanne Page       | Director Infrastructure and Works                   |
| • Isabelle Ghetti   | Transport, Asset and Stormwater Manager             |
| • Joel Harris       | Transport, Asset and Stormwater Manager (Acting)    |
| • Nathan McBriarty  | Traffic and Transport Unit Leader                   |
| • Leanne Ledwidge   | Road Safety Officer                                 |
| • Tracy Venaglia    | Coordinator Community Development & Social Planning |
| • Juliana Cavalieri |   |
| • Goncalves Peloché | Student Representative                              |

Cr Brown requested members give a brief overview advising who they were and where they were from as this was a new committee.

#### 1.3 Disclosures of Interest

Nil

## 2 INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Role of Committee and Changes to the Charter

A presentation was made by Cole Hendrigan outlining the role of the committee and the changes to the [Charter](#).

Cole advised the WCMRG will provide advice and feedback to Council in developing implementing and monitoring bicycle and pedestrian policies however the group does not have decision making authority, the power to bind Council or the power to incur expenditure.

Cole outlined the responsibilities and functions as per the Charter:

## RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

The responsibilities and functions of the Walking, Cycling and Mobility Reference Group are to assist and advise Council on:

- Delivery of: *Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 - Community Strategic Plan, City of Wollongong Integrated Transport Strategy, Access and movement aspects of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan, City of Wollongong Cycling Strategy, City of Wollongong Pedestrian Plan, Access and movement aspects of the Ageing Plan, and Relevant Council policies*
  - Promoting cycling and walking for improved health and environmental outcomes
  - Access barriers for people with disability, as well as older people and children
  - Better understanding issues preventing increases in cycling and walking as transport choices
  - Making the city's walking and cycling network child friendly and improving connectivity and safety around schools
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### 2.2 Role of Cycling Technology Advisory Group

Cole outlined the difference between the WCMRG Committee and the Cycling Technology Advisory Group (CTAG) highlighting how CTAG differs to this group as it relates to cycling and related technical and design matters only.

### 2.3 Meeting Timetable

Discussion was held relating to future meeting dates and the method for meeting being online or in person.

The current dates timetabled for 2023, ie 7 March, 6 June, 5 September and 5 December clash with the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meetings so these dates may need to be changed for WCMRG to allow members and staff to attend both committees. The intervals were supported.

There was a mixed response from members as some preferred face to face whilst others preferred our current medium due to work and family commitments. Jeremy confirmed a mixed medium format would be workable to allow those who have difficulty attending in person to join online. Cr Brown requested members email Cole their preferences for consideration with WCC staff to collate and advise.

#### **Action:**

1. *Committee members to put forward their preferences before the next meeting by email to Cole Hendrigan [chendrigan@wollongong.gov.nsw.au](mailto:chendrigan@wollongong.gov.nsw.au)*

### 2.4 Communication Methods

Preferences for communication between teams was discussed.

1. Edward suggested it would be helpful to get the presentations a week prior to the meeting to be able to digest information and have an outline of what's required, ie decision making, input needed, action items. Committee members supported this idea.
2. Cr Brown requested if the full Agenda is not available, he would be happy for a draft agenda to see most of what is happening. Committee members supported this idea.
3. Lena requested presentations be uploaded somewhere for the committee to see. Committee members supported this idea. Jerah suggested One Drive/ Sharepoint or our Have Your Say Engagement Platform may be available for sharing.

#### **Action:**

1. *Cole to investigate options for sharing information and an update provided at the next meeting.*
2. *Agenda to be issued one week in advance of meetings.*

### 2.5 Update on specific projects as and when they arise

The Committee agreed they would like to be kept updated and will be advised by the sharing platform agreed upon after investigated as per Item 2.4

### **3 UPDATE ON KEY TRANSPORT STRATEGIES**

#### **3.1 Bus Shelter Compliance Upgrades Strategy**

Background was provided on the strategy with SCT Consulting being the consultant appointed. SCT Consulting will be looking at this through a strategic approach which will be presented at our next meeting.

Mithra noted previous meeting conversations were held to look at buses, bus stops and bus routes together. Cole advised there are changes to when new buses are bought and how they must comply. Justin advised there is difficulty in securing new buses as there is a shortage and TFNSW are trying to work through this with service providers.

Melanie asked if the goal is to upgrade all of Wollongong bus stops and is there a timeline? Jerah advised we have legislative requirements, and the project will have a priority list; we currently do not have a time frame and need to wait until the project is finalised for an answer and noted we do have several complying bus stops in the LGA

Jeremy advised a performance meeting with TFNSW had occurred regarding the free shuttle and one local bus operator has 100% of buses available for accessible service.

#### **3.2 Pop-up cycleways evaluation**

There is a currently a pop-up cycle way survey for people to complete, this project is overseen by Walter Galvan

Jerah explained a Pop-up cycle way is a way to look at existing road reserves to identify if we would like to utilise these as permanent cycleways, it allows us to see how it is running on the ground before permanently implementing and investing. The intent of the dedicated cycleways is for bikes specifically, shared paths are for pedestrians, scooters and mobility access vehicles although we have seen other users on the cycleways.

Jeremy advised the pop-up cycle way came from Covid lockdown with a lot of vacant streets in Sydney and this was a short term use of space in Sydney Metro area to give a separated cycle way – with success – which Wollongong is now trialling.

#### **3.3 Integrated Transport Strategy**

Cole gave an overview of the Integrated Transport Strategy and its deliverables advising it will provide an overarching framework for transport planning and initiatives across the Wollongong LGA to 2023

Beth asked about how consultation would be and if there was a time frame for the transport strategy. Cole advised this would be through the consultant via stakeholder workshops with our committees playing an important role whilst Jerah advised we were waiting on the consultant to advise the time frame.

Jerah provided links to [Movement and Place and the Greater Cities Commission](#) and [Six Cities Region Discussion Paper](#).

Cole advised Lake Illawarra Shared Path Masterplan brief is written there was discussion hoping this will be our chance to look at opportunities to finalise the loop for Lake Illawarra.

Cole advised Grand Pacific Walk has funding for the design and construction of the Austinmer section, with more grant dollars to be requested in the next round of the Coledale section south of the Coledale Carpark

Cole advised other Get Active NSW funding has been offered for Throsby Drive and sections of the Princes Highway in Fairy Meadow with Lise highlighting Throsby drive as an issue and Mithra questioning what the Fairy Meadow funding is for. Cole advised from Guest Ave to North Wollongong station to be a shared path with improvement to intersections, signalisation, and curve ramps.

Lise commented she believes a proper cycleway between all centres should be the goal to link everywhere all areas together and promote safe cycling.

### **4 SAFETY AROUND SCHOOLS**

Cole and Justin provided an insight into the Road Safety Officer's role, held by Leanne Ledwidge.

Cole discussed Leanne's role, ie she does not design or deal with infrastructure she is here to look and influence to change people's behaviour when driving through the Safe Systems Approach

Lena asked would Leanne be educating children at schools and Justin advised this is open for discussion however there are rules around what they can and can't do and guidelines available for this Justin advised:

1. Leanne's projects are guided by the [Local Government Road Safety Program Guidelines](#) and the program is to
  - Develop, implement, and promote effective community road safety programs
  - Implement a Road Safety Plan
  - Promote road safety in the local community
2. Leanne liaises with Community Groups, Government Agencies and Local Traffic Committee Meetings
3. Leanne is also involved in the centre for road safety and the mandatory delivery for all age groups to develop road safety culture and is working with other councils on matters relating to motorcycle safety

Lena raised her concern with National Safety week and is looking to change what is being promoted in terms of children walking to school.

Edward asked what reviews are undertaken re cycling incidents? Cole advised there are several programs such as the Black Spot program but not all data is captured especially near misses. Justin advised we do seek feedback from Police and TfNSW has programs, such as the Fatal Crash Response Program; how we receive information depends on the incident and each is dealt with individually and peer reviewed prior to recommendation.

Lise would like to know if there is any monitoring of how effective Road Safety campaigns are.

**Action:**

1. *Justin to follow up and advise.*

Lena would like an explanation of the good results 2021 on the Crash Statistics in WCC LGA - is it due to lockdown? Justin advised nothing evident as yet however trends are looked as data is collected over a number of years.

## **5 GENERAL BUSINESS**

1. Agenda item from Lise regarding traffic facilities, specifically pedestrian crossings to be added.
2. Beth would like to know what the process is to prioritise cycling projects as often this has been an agenda item that has been kicked down the path – cycling has often taken over the reference group previously, she does not want this but wants to see a process. Jerah advised that the prioritisation methods and lists each area Transport area within ISP are currently being revised and refined. This could make an agenda item for the March meeting.
3. Cole will present on cycleway priority destinations, connecting retail, connecting schools, other land uses, crash history, policy setting alignment and more which may inform the ranking of a potential cycleway project.
4. Lena referred to the upcoming State Election and zones in other areas, asking can we advocate for more money coming up to the election. Cr Brown advised we talk and remind but often they are hands off to individual requests, sometimes there will be things coming through. Lena highlighted she would like action regarding the 30km painted footpaths.
5. Tim raised the question of zebra crossings and looking at signalised crossings and the ability to expand countdown timers and how cycles work. Can road sensors be used to detect if there is a car there and if not override this for pedestrians to have ability to move more freely. Jerah advised we need to clarify this with TfNSW and Justin advised he will be a point of contact for this group; with signals they are inherently complex and countdown timers are important for this area. Justin advised he is happy to take feedback and report back to teams to help with collaboration.

**Actions:**

1. *Cole to coordinate a presentation on prioritisation methods for key transport project areas within the Infrastructure Delivery Program.*
2. *Cole to coordinate a presentation on different pedestrian crossings and their roles.*

**Meeting closed:** 6.51pm

**Next meeting:** TBA

**Next agenda:** See Action Items