

MINUTES OF ACTIVE TRANSPORT REFERENCE COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

- Present: Mayor Jeff Pettett (Chairperson)
David Thomson - representing Bike North
Lyness Beavis - representing Bike North
Tim Cassidy - representing WalkSydney
Mandy Kerr - Community representative
Rod Sharples - Community representative
Fae Sarshoghi - Community representative
Con Koulouris - Community representative (via audio-visual link)
Jennifer Ekman - Community representative (via audio-visual link)
- Staff Present: Manager Urban & Heritage Planning (Antony Fabbro)
Strategic Traffic Engineer (Joseph Piccoli)
- Others Present: Councillor A Taylor - Ku-ring-gai Council (joined for part of the meeting via audio-visual link)
- Apologies: None

The Meeting commenced at 12:00 PM

WELCOME BY CHAIRPERSON

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interest was declared.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

This being the first meeting of the Committee, there were no previous matters arising.

NOTING OF MINUTES

There were no previous minutes to note.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Welcome and Introductions

File: S02696

Vide: GB.1

Each member introduced themselves and talked about why they nominated to be a member of the Committee and what they hope they can achieve through the Committee.

Active Transport Reference Committee - Confirmation of Terms of Reference

File: S02696

Vide: GB.2

As an introduction, the Chairperson outlined key elements of the Terms of Reference.

In the Terms of Reference, the objective of “representing the needs of micromobility users in Ku-ring-gai, including adults and children who walk and cycle” was discussed. It was suggested that this objective be amended to be inclusive of people who have special mobility needs.

Therefore, the committee recommends that the relevant objective in the Terms of Reference be amended to read:

- representing the needs of micromobility users in Ku-ring-gai, including adults and children who walk and cycle and people with special mobility needs.

RESOLVED

RECOMMENDATION:

That the relevant objective in the Active Transport Reference Committee Terms of Reference be amended to read:

- representing the needs of micromobility users in Ku-ring-gai, including adults and children who walk and cycle and people with special mobility needs.

Status Update of Walking & Cycling Projects

File: S02696

Vide: GB.3

The Strategic Traffic Engineer gave an update on the status of current and potential future active transport projects.

In addition to the current projects, the Strategic Traffic Engineer provided a brief update on the Black Spot project currently under design at the intersection of Werona Avenue and Stanhope Road to provide pedestrian crossing facilities. Here, it was noted that as part of the design, provision is being made on the western side of Werona Avenue for pedestrian/cycle crossing facilities, to allow future integration of the Lindfield 2/Killara 4 cycle route.

Committee members briefly discussed the current and future projects, and recommended that Transport for NSW's Active Transport Team be invited to the next meeting to brief members on the state governments plans for cycling in area.

It was suggested that there may be locations in the LGA that could be eligible for 40km/h speed limits or trials of 30km/h speed limits on local streets, which was felt would encourage and further support walking and cycling participation. The Strategic Traffic Engineer noted that Council's adopted Public Domain Plans include concept plans that were developed to support lower vehicle speed environments in areas of high activity on local streets, and that 30km/h speed limits could be considered (subject to Transport for NSW approval) with supporting infrastructure.

It was also noted by the Committee that the City of Sydney has a Cycleways team that could offer Council assistance and advice in the development and consultation phases of projects, and representative of Bike North and WalkSydney offered to investigate this further.

Education Programs

File: S02696

Vide: GB.4

There was discussion amongst the committee members on possible actions and activities. Student travel to school was an area of interest, with safety concerns raised as a reason why students are discouraged from walking or cycling to school. There was also discussion of confidence coaching of young and adult cyclists, as well as "try an e-bike" sessions, which were endorsed by the Committee.

It was suggested Council could work more closely with schools, and while promotion/education programs and behaviour change/skills improvement strategies are useful, the provision of safe and comfortable walking facilities in streets surrounding schools (e.g. footpaths, pedestrian crossings and shade) would encourage more students to walk or cycle to school. There was acknowledgement that Council has limited resources to substantially improve infrastructure, and it was agreed that the State Government needs to increase funding assistance to Councils to address this.

One of the actions proposed is for the Committee members to organise and participate in a bike ride around parts of the LGA with Councillors and Local MPs in the coming months, so that they can become more aware of the extent and quality of facilities currently available.

The Meeting closed at 1:30PM.

Next meeting: 12pm, Thursday 9 November 2023