

3.1. Sustainable Transport Project Updates

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ENDORSED BY	Gary Parsons, Director Open Space and Infrastructure
ATTACHMENTS	1. ATNR Submission Letter [3.1.1 - 4 pages]
CSP LINK	2. Our Built Infrastructure 2.3 Prioritise sustainable and active transport

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Sustainable Transport Projects at North Sydney Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report contains an update on current Traffic and Transport Operations projects related to sustainable transport. The projects include:

- Young and Grosvenor Street Intersection
- West Street Cycling, Walking and Streetscape Upgrades, Stage 1.
- West Street Cycling, Walking and Streetscape Upgrades, Stage 2.
- Route 3 - Active Transport pedestrian/cycleway program.
- Get NSW Active Grants.
- Bike Facilities
- Bike repair and maintenance courses
- Increasing Pedestrian Capacity at Neutral Bay B-Line Stop
- Transport for NSW – Active Transport Network Review.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the report be received.

Background

This report provides an update on current sustainable transport projects completed since the last reference group meeting.

Report

Project	Detail
Young and Grosvenor Street Intersection	<p>Proposed design for the Young and Grosvenor Street Intersection were publicly exhibited from Tuesday 4 July to Monday 14 August. Council undertook a range of consultation activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 X pop-ups• 1 X webinar• 1 X walkthrough <p>The proposed design will be taken to traffic committee for technical advice. If endorsed the proposal will be submitted to a Council Meeting for approval.</p>
West Street Stage 1	<p>West Street Stage 1 was officially opened in July. The upgrades have delivered 100 metres of cycleway of Priority Route 1 Sydney Harbour Bridge to Cammeray, additional trees, public domain upgrades, pedestrian/cyclist crossing, foot path widening and additional garden plantings.</p>
West Street Stage 2	<p>The final concept designs are nearing completion and consultation is planned for late 2023.</p>
Route 3 – Kirribilli to Mosman	<p>Previously exhibited designs are currently under review to consider community concerns.</p>
Get NSW Active Grants	<p>Council has been successful in securing two grants from the Get NSW Active program. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$135,000 to refresh of the North Sydney Integrated Cycling Strategy 2014• \$73,700 for the construction of a continuous footpath treatment at the intersection of Park Avenue and Military Road.
Bike Facilities	<p>Additional bike facilities have been installed at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corner of Merlin Street and Falcon Street• Bike pump at the Sydney Harbour Bridge steps• Bike pump at the Ridge Street and West Street intersection



Image 1. Merlin Street and Falcon Street Bike Racks



Image 2. Bike pump intersection Ridge Street and West Street

<p>Increasing Pedestrian Capacity at Neutral Bay B-Line Stop</p>	<p>Council staff received feedback from the community regarding footpath clutter and capacity at the Neutral Bay B-Line stop (south side of Military Road). An assessment of the location was conducted, and action was taken to improve pedestrian footpath capacity.</p> <p>A bin, bike rack and 2 X planters were relocated to nearby locations (within 50 metres) to relieve pressure at a pinch point for pedestrians.</p>
<p>Bike repair and maintenance courses</p>	<p>Council will provide funding for 16 Bike Repair services and 7 bike maintenance workshops for the 23/24 FY. This is approximately double the number of programs delivered in the 22/23 FY.</p> <p>These will be delivered at the Northside Produce Markets and the Kirribilli Markets.</p>
<p>Warringah Freeway</p>	<p>Council staff have been meeting with Transport for NSW/Warringah Freeway Upgrade project team to</p>

Upgrade, Active Transport Network Review	Council staff prepared a submission to the Warringah Freeway Upgrade, Active Transport Network Review (attachment A). The submission made several short-, medium- and long-term walking and cycling upgrades that could be implemented to minimise the negative impact the Warringah Freeway Upgrade has had on active transport.
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Consultation requirements

Community engagement is not required.

Financial/Resource Implications

There are no direct financial implications required for consideration as part of this report.



**NORTH SYDNEY
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Transport for NSW,
 PO Box K659,
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07 July 2023

Dear Madam/Sir,

RE: ACTIVE TRANSPORT NETWORK REVIEW - NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL SUBMISSION

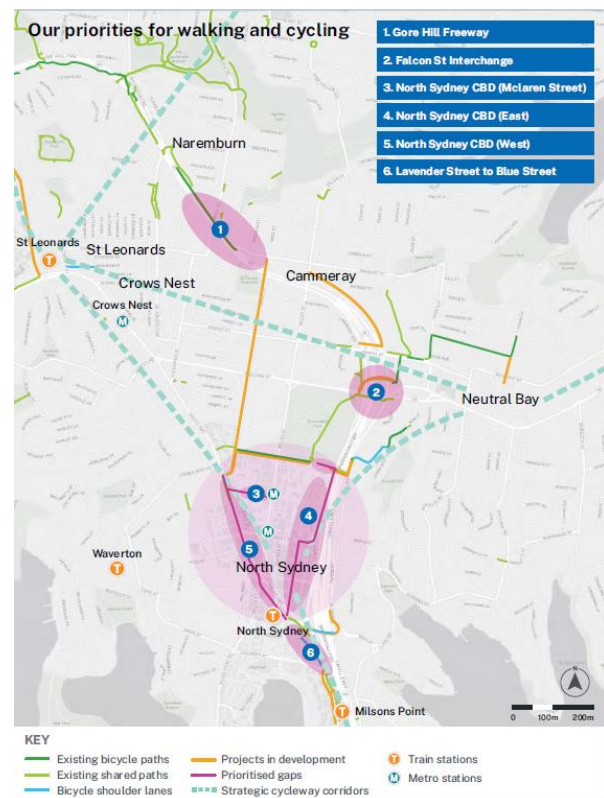
Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Active Transport Network Review: North Sydney and Surrounds. We appreciate the time Transport for NSW has taken to engage with North Sydney Council, Willoughby City Council, Bicycle NSW and BikeNorth.

We understand this review is a condition outlined in the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade Conditions of Approval. The intention of this condition is to ensure that walking and cycling are a priority in the delivery of this project. In the spirit of this intent, we welcome any proposed upgrades that improve active transport within our LGA and attempt mitigate the negative impacts caused by the Warringah Freeway Upgrade and Western Harbour Tunnel.

The review has identified six priority areas for consideration. In general, North Sydney Council is supportive of the interventions, however we strongly encourage the review to also include more achievable short-and medium-term actions that could be delivered. We also encourage the review to consider actions outside these six priority areas that are within the 500-metre project boundary.

Visionary long-term interventions, such as the Pacific Highway Cycleway and a cantilevered cycleway along the Warringah Freeway (between Berry Street and Ridge Street) are an important part of making active transport a realistic alternative to private car use. It is recommended that the plan also consider simple interventions in addition these larger scale solutions. These smaller scale interventions can make North Sydney a safer and more accessible environment for pedestrians and bike riders in the short term.

The following section provides feedback and suggestions on the six priority areas, followed by proposed actions that could be delivered within the project area.





Priority Areas – Review and Feedback

1. Gore Hill Freeway

The review suggests a grade separated structure from the Gore Hill Freeway cycleway towards the Amhurst Street roundabout, which is an appropriate long-term solution to safety for bike riders. To improve safety in the short term, we propose the following additional short to medium term interventions:

- Install physical separator between the road and cycleway along the northern side of the off-ramp (between Brook Street and Amhurst Street) to protect bike riders travelling to Amhurst Street.
- Provide a Pedestrian/Cyclist signalised crossing on Brook Street (between Donnelly Road and Palmer Street)
- Reduce the crossing distance with kerb buildouts and improved refuges for bike riders at the on-ramp fork.
- Widen the cycleway on the southern side of road between Amhurst Street and the on-ramp fork.

2. Falcon Street Interchange

The Falcon Street Interchange is currently a pinch point for bike riders and pedestrians and forms part of North Sydney Council's priority cycling route. We support the long-term, visionary active transport solution for a grade-separated structures across Falcon Street, and propose the following short to medium term actions:

- Realign the pedestrian/cyclist line marking to divert bike riders and pedestrians away from the conflict point on the traffic island. Diagonal crossings can be found at the Walker Street and Pacific Highway intersection, and the Chandos and Alexander Street T intersection.
- Widening of the Shared Path through Jefferson Jackson Reserve.

3. McLaren Street (North Sydney CBD)

The upcoming Metro station at the corner McClaren Street and Miller Street is an opportunity to increase rates of walking and cycling. We propose the following upgrades at this location:

- Providing a signalised pedestrian crossing on the north side of the Pacific Highway and McClaren Street T-intersection
- Improve safety at the crossing point across McLaren Street for bike riders on Church Lane through the provision of cyclist/pedestrian refuge.

4. North Sydney CBD (East)

Delivering a safe connection for bike riders through the North Sydney CBD is a key connection in the North Sydney and Regional Cycling Network. A connection through the CBD is critical for bike riders and significant improvements can be provided. Similarly, there are significant opportunities to improve the walkability of the North Sydney CBD, and the proposed Miller Place and other interventions outlined in the North Sydney CBD Public Domain Plan will ensure that walking is the highest priority mode of transport.



Pacific Highway cycleway and a cantilevered connection on the eastern side of the CBD would provide a critical connection and North Sydney Council supports this action. There are concerns about the timelines which such infrastructure would be provided. It is requested that any actions resulting from the Active Transport Review are provided with realistic timeframes for delivery. Additionally, consideration of short to medium term actions as part of the Active Transport Network Review would also be supported to provide more immediate improvements to active transport accessibility and connectivity, such as:

- Consider converting AM/PM clearways on Miller Street to Parking to accommodate bi-directional cycleway creating a connection between the existing Ridge Street Cycleway and the proposed Walker Street cycleway. Miller Street has the highest bike traffic through the CBD.
- Continuous footpaths along all non-major road intersections

5. North Sydney CBD (West) & Lavender Street to Blue Street (priority area 5 and 6)

This section of the review is a priority route for North Sydney Council, and we strongly support the provision of a cycleway along the Pacific Highway. In addition to this, we suggest the following interventions:

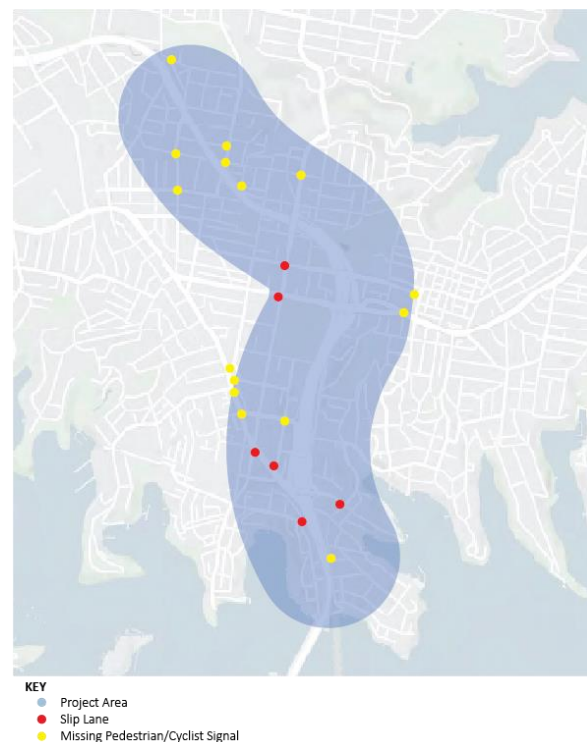
- Continuation of the on-road cycleway up Middlemiss Street (between Arthur Street and Walker Street).
- Funding to identify a design solution for passing bike riders and pedestrians through Saint Peters Park. Currently bike riders must dismount.

Upgrades Within Project Area

These actions include the addition of missing pedestrian/cyclist signalised crossings, removal of slip lanes on neighborhood streets and raising existing at grade pedestrian crossings.

Missing Pedestrian/Cyclist signalised crossings

- Dalleys Road and Willoughby Road
- Chandos Street and Willoughby Road
- Donnelly Road and Palmer Street (across Brook Street)
- Merrenburn Avenue and Brook Street
- Willoughby Road and Garland Road
- Miller Street and Palmer Street
- Ben Boyd Road and Ernest Street
- West Street and Pacific Highway
- Pacific Highway and McLaren Street
- Berry Street and Walker Street
- Broughton and Ennis Road





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- Bay Road and Pacific Highway
- Berry Street and Pacific Highway
- Brook Street and Warringah Freeway (northbound off ramp)
- Military Road and Watson Street

Slip Lane Removal

- Slip lane from Pacific Highway onto Miller Street (northbound)
- Slip lane from Pacific Highway onto Walker Street (southbound)
- Slip lane from Clark Road onto High Street (northbound)
- Slip lane from Warringah Freeway onto Alfred Street South (northbound)
- Slip lane from Miller Street onto Falcon Street (northbound)
- Slip lane from Miller Street onto Ernest Street (southbound)

Conclusion

North Sydney Council is committed to increasing walking and cycling in the Local Government Area and are eager to collaborate with Transport for NSW to deliver this goal. The Warringah Freeway Upgrade and Western Harbour Tunnel project could be excellent examples of road projects that also improve walking and cycling for the community and committing to the suggested actions in this submission will be a step in the right direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Active Transport Network Review for the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade and we look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

John Van Hesden
A/Director Open Space & Infrastructure
North Sydney Council