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Mr Robert Miesegeaes
Project Director, B-Line
Transport for NSW
Level 5, Tower A, Zenith Centre
821 Pacific Highway
CHATSWOOD NSW 2067

MO4 (CIS)

7 December 2017

Dear Mr Miesegeaes,

RE: B-LINE – CONVERSION OF THE EXISTING AM T3 LANE TO AN AM BUS LANE

I refer to your letter dated 21 November 2017 regarding proposed conversion of T3 lanes to Bus Lane along the Military Road corridor. Council appreciates being provided the opportunity of commenting on the proposed changes being envisaged.

North Sydney Council considered a report in response to this advice at its meeting on 4 December 2017 and resolved to make a submission along the lines of the attached report. In addition, Council resolved that:

- Council also prepare a supplementary submission based on feedback from affected Precincts, including Harrison, Bennett, Willoughby Bay, Neutral and Brightmore.
- Council immediately forward to the above Precincts any correspondence that it receives from Transport for NSW regarding the B-Line and continue to publish all correspondence on its website.

The report concludes the following:

1. Although the letter notes that conversion of the T3 lanes is expected to “improve bus reliability” and “reduce bus travel times” of the B-Line service, whether and to what extent these outcomes will be achieved and how this will affect mode shift, traffic reduction and the value for money objectives of the project, has not been quantified and is therefore difficult to assess.
2. The letter does not quantify the benefits of the proposal but instead notes that:

RMS is in the process of finalising a detailed traffic impact assessment that will assess:

- travel times for all modes of transport during the AM peak as a result of the T3 Lane conversion;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'M' or similar character.

- *assess the impact of the conversion on delays at existing signalised intersections along the routes.*

While this traffic impact assessment should be completed before incorporating T3 to Bus Lane changes into the B-Line project, consideration should also be given to the social, health and economic impact of proposed changes on Military Road communities.

3. The letter also notes that:

“...conversion of the T3 Lane to a Bus Lane will likely result in delays to road users wishing to enter the main road network...from local roads”

and

“It is possible that road users may seek alternative routes...potentially leading to increased usage of the local road network.”

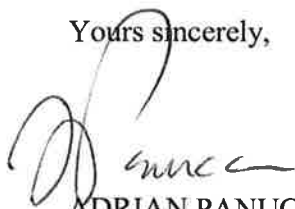
While neither increased delays for residents joining Military Road or increased rat-running is desirable, it is suggested that a more holistic assessment of the impact of improved bus passenger travel times on mode shift and through-traffic demand could show that road space and phase time re-allocation to other mode groups can be achieved without negatively impacting bus passenger travel times.

4. There appears to be some confusion within the letter/drawings regarding whether T3 Lanes will be converted to “Bus Lanes” or to “Bus Only Lanes”. While the letter and sign drawings are for “Bus Lanes”, drawing notations (key and road markings) indicate the introduction of “Bus Only Lanes”.

Introduction of “Bus Only Lanes” would have significant negative impacts on Military Road including an effective ban of cycling on Military Road, a ban on taxi/hire vehicle pick-up/drop-offs and increased confusion between buses and drivers turning directly from general traffic lanes across bus only lanes.

Council appreciates your consideration of the matters outlined in this letter. If you would like to discuss the comments above, please contact Joseph Hill, Director City Strategy on 9936 8300.

Yours sincerely,



ADRIAN PANUCCIO
A/GENERAL MANAGER

Attachment