

## MINUTES OF MEETING – RTA, NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL, RESIDENTS COUNCIL OFFICES – 16 DECEMBER 2010 – 2pm

### Present

- Genia McCaffery - Mayor NS Council
- Cathy Edwards-Davis – Traffic Engineer NSC
- Peter Crosby – RTA Sydney Region Manager
- Joseph Fanous – RTA – Sydney Environmental Manager and Manager NAP
- Richard Hines – Project Manager - Bus Layover
- Kathy Bisits – Resident
- Graham Webster – Resident

### WARRINGAH FREEWAY NOISE WALL - AS A SPECIAL CASE

- RTA is undertaking new assessment of Warringah Freeway to determine if there is adequate noise impact and thus support for treatment of WF as a “Special Case” for requesting funding for noise abatement
- Renzo Tonin Associates (Acoustics Consultants) are undertaking assessment for RTA — includes - 1 - noise monitoring of selected properties and – 2- traffic count volumes on WF
- Area of assessment is from Willoughby Road to Falcon Street only
- 13 properties have been assessed for noise levels (completed between 3 Dec and 17 Dec) – these were located in streets – Donnelly, Palmer, Massey, Brook, Chandos, Sexton, Metcalfe, Tarella, Bellevue, Cammeray, Moodie, Merlin (2)
- Report to RTA expected before end of January 2011
- Assessment will be against noise standards for Freeway upgrades and changes – noise levels being 60dB day /55dB night (compared to NAP levels of 65dB /60dB)
- Support for Special Case noted to include many reasons already discussed – these include -
  - if built today WF would have full noise walls,
  - New Freeways have added to WF traffic – Gore Hill M2 M7 etc – these all have noise walls
  - Sydney Harbour tunnel has been added
  - widening WF has occurred through use of emergency lanes for traffic – now 16/18 lanes wide – this was a Freeway upgrade
  - proposed widening of M2
  - Part of Sydney Orbital – 110 kms – most of which has good noise walls – RTA acknowledges that WF missed out
  - Upgrades of Bus layover and exit to Falcon St have been added – extensions/changes
  - Low noise road surface has not been used
  - Noise levels for many properties are above NAP criteria – noise levels for all listed tested properties are above standard for Freeway changes/upgrades

### NEXT STEPS FOR SPECIAL CASE -

- **Justification** - Report from RTC to RTA to be used to assess support for Special Case – then submit to CEO RTA – then prepare submission to State Government for special funding
- Noise walls are suggested /requested to give community relief from noise as well streets of houses
- If noise walls are justified then max height is normally 4 meters – max of 5m

- JF confirmed that type of noise wall depends on site conditions and cost/benefit analysis
- Most commonly used walls are Hebel – JF awaiting information on alternative construction type
- **Quantification** – GW suggested from assessing sides of freeway - 2000 linear meters of noise walls would be require to provide noise abatement for residents and community on both sides of WF
- **COST** - 4m high - 2000 m long by 4m high = 8,000 m2 of walls required
  - based on cost is \$250 /M2 (Hebel base cost) then total cost could be \$2m
  - based on cost is \$800 /M2 (RTA) then total cost could be \$6.4 m
  - discussed **likely total cost being closer to \$6m (plus)**
- Funding is required from State Govt – discussed timing for budgets – will likely be too late for 2011/12 budget – suggest target budget for 2012/13

#### **BUS LAYOVER**

- Tests of properties prior to layover construction indicated traffic noise would not be increased above trigger levels and therefore would not a problem for residents – tests provided a base level for noise evaluation
- Residents believe that noise has and will increase due to movement of traffic closer to houses and due to buses idling and starting at all hours
- Residents have continually requested noise walls as part of project construction – RTA refused
- RTA will retest noise levels shortly after construction is completed and site is operating – to compare to pre-construction levels and to absolute noise levels
- RTA advise that noise walls can physically be installed at the site at later date if justified by testing

#### **NOISE ABATEMENT PROGRAM (NAP)**

- Major review of basis of prioritising properties and streets under NAP is still progressing – expect announcement on changes in January 2011 – maybe the NAP basis and funding
- NAP priority listing – agreed GW will contact JF on Monday 20 Dec for update of priorities of existing properties already listed on NAP and also new properties tested which will qualify for NAP in future

#### **QUESTIONS ARISING FROM PUBLIC MEETING – SEPT 2010**

- Council confirmed they have not received a response from PC or JF to questions raised by residents at Public Meeting in Sept – letter of request from GMcC was dated 2-11-10 – copy given to PC

#### **NEXT MEETING**

- Agreed next follow up meeting is scheduled for Monday 7 Feb 2011 – 10 30 am at NS Council offices – advise on report from Renzo Tonin and discuss next steps – Adele NSC to confirm timing with Jocelyn RTA and attendees

Minutes by Graham Webster – 18 Dec 2010