

### **3.1. Sustainable Transport Project Updates**

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**ATTACHMENTS:** Nil

#### **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:

- Street Play 2023
- Young Street Cycling, Walking and Streetscape Upgrades
- West Street Cycling, Walking and Streetscape Upgrades, Stage 1
- West Street Cycling, Walking and Streetscape Upgrades, Stage 2-3
- Warringah Freeway Upgrade
- Route 3 - Active Transport pedestrian/cycleway program
- Bike Strategy and Action Plan
- Miller Street Pop-Up
- Get NSW Active Grants.
- Inter-council planning workshop
- Response to Sustainable Transport Reference Group recommendations

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Funding for these projects is included in the adopted 2022/23 budgets and State Government grant funding.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**1. THAT** Council notes this report and the attached Minutes of the Sustainable Transport Reference Group 21 November 2022 for formal adoption by Council.

## LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

2. Our Built Infrastructure

2.3 Prioritise sustainable and active transport

## BACKGROUND

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

## CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement is not required.

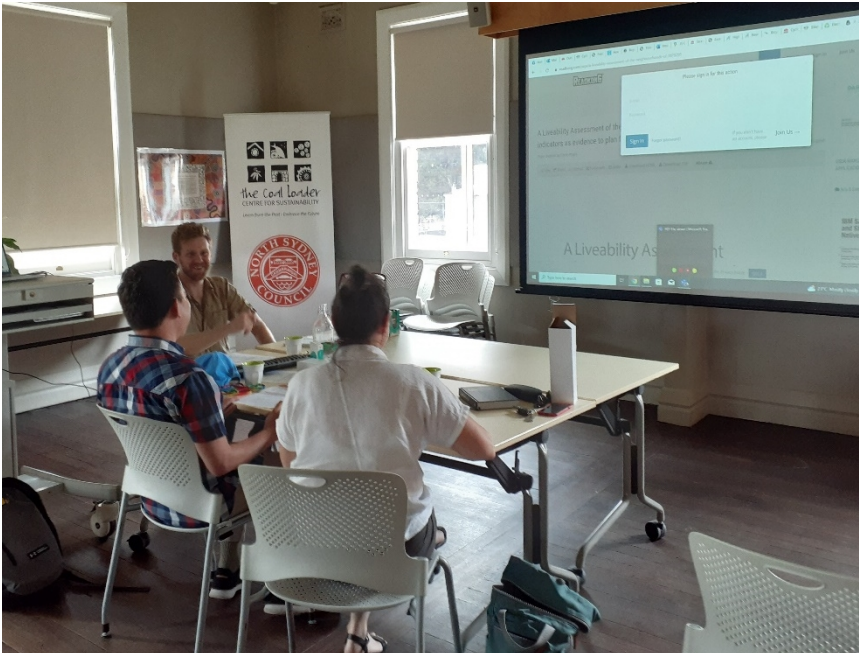
## DETAIL

The table below provides an update of current sustainable transport projects.

Project	Detail
Street Play 2023	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council promoted an EOI for the community to nominate their street from December to January.</li><li>• 18 streets were selected from the nominations using a series of assessment criteria.</li><li>• A grant application for \$68,000 was submitted to the NSW Social Cohesion Grants program to fund.</li><li>• Further consultation with these 18 streets will identify Seven (7) streets for the Street Play 2023 program.</li><li>• The street nominators (Street Leaders) will be supported to plan and deliver the events.</li></ul> <p>At its meeting of Monday 28 November 2022, Council resolved to revisit the Street Play program that was run on five streets in 2020, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. THAT</b> staff undertake an Expression of Interest to identify a list of 15 eligible streets and subsequent report for Council to select up to seven (7) pilot sites for the Street Play 2023 program.</li><li><b>2. THAT</b> that the five pilot streets and Bligh Street be included in the 15 eligible streets.</li><li><b>3. THAT</b> staff continue to identify and apply for appropriate grants to fund the Street Play 2023 program.</li><li><b>4. THAT</b> should Council not secure grant funding, that funding be allocated from the Traffic Facilities 2022/2023 financial year budget, and that staff proceed with the Street Play 2023 program with a scope that is consistent with the budget.</li><li><b>5. THAT</b> Council supports the development of a North Sydney Council Street Play Working Group that will develop a Street Play Policy and resources to support future community led Street Play programs.</li></ol> <p>In response, Council Staff promoted an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the community from December 2022 to January 2023, to nominate their streets for the program. 18 Streets were selected using a multi-criteria analysis, and</p>

	<p>further consultation with the street will identify seven (7) streets for Street Play 2023.</p> <p>At the same time an application for \$68,000 was made to NSW Social Cohesion Grants program to fully fund Street Play 2023.</p> <p>A report was presented at a council meeting on Monday 13 February 2023 updating these activities. The report recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. THAT Council staff undertake further consultation with the community in the 18 streets identified in this report and finalise seven streets for the Street Play 2023 program.</b></li> <li><b>2. THAT should Council be unsuccessful in its grant application to the NSW Social Cohesion Grants, the \$63,000 to run the program be reallocated from the Traffic Facilities budget.</b></li> <li><b>3. THAT Council reaffirm the development of a North Sydney Council “Street Play” Working Group to develop a Street Play Policy and resources to support future community-led Street Play programs in partnership with Council.</b></li> </ol> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <p>Council Staff will consult further with the community and identify seven (7) streets for the program. The street nominators will be supported and up skilled to be ‘Street Leaders’ and assisted to plan and deliver the events from March to May 2023.</p>
<p>Young Street Cycling, Walking and Streetscape Upgrades</p>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultants have been engaged to prepare concept and consultation materials for the Young and Grosvenor Street Roundabout.</li> <li>• Community engagement is planned for mid-April</li> <li>• Construction is planned for mid 2023.</li> </ul> <p>Council staff have been working through a range of options for the final connection to Neutral Bay, at the Young and Grosvenor Street roundabout. Consultants have been engaged to prepare the concept design and community consultation materials in preparation for community engagement. Detailed construction documentation will also be prepared. Community engagement is planned for mid-April and will be on exhibition for 42 days, in line with Council engagement policy. Construction is due to commence mid-2023 to coincide with the construction of the approved plans for Young Street Cycleway (between Sutherland and Grosvenor Street).</p>
<p>West Street Cycling, Walking and Streetscape Upgrades, Stage 1</p>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation outcomes suggested a high level of support for the West Street Cycling, Walking and Streetscape Upgrades, Stage 1 design.</li> <li>• Council unanimously resolved proceeding to tender and construction documentation stage.</li> <li>• Construction is due to commence mid 2023.</li> </ul> <p>Final concept designs for West Street Cycling Walking and Streetscape Upgrades, Stage 1 was put on public exhibition for a period of 42 days from 4 October to 14 November 2022, Consultation outcomes suggested a high level of support for the designs. Outcomes included:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 83 (90%) supported, 8 (9%) opposed, 1 (1%) did not express and opinion on the design.</li> <li>• 50 (54%) submissions came from residents/businesses within the North Sydney LGA.</li> <li>• Of these submissions, 42 (84%) supported, 7 (14%) opposed and 1 (2%) did not express and opinion on the design.</li> </ul> <p>The consultation outcomes were taken to a Council meeting on 30 January 2023. Council resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. THAT</b> Council notes the outcome of the community consultation undertaken for this project (West Street Cycleway – Stage 1).</li> <li><b>2. THAT</b> Council proceeds to tender and construction documentation stage for West Street Cycleway – Stage 1.</li> <li><b>3. THAT</b> the final detailed design for the project be subject to approval of the North Sydney Traffic Committee.</li> </ol> <p>Final design will be taken to the Traffic Committee in March 2023 and construction is due to commence in mid- 2023.</p>
West Street Cycling, Walking and Streetscape Upgrades, Stage 2-3	<p>Council staff have made application to the Transport for NSW Get NSW Active grant program to further the design and consultation materials for West Street Stage 2.</p> <p>This work is planned to take place over 2023.</p>
Warringah Freeway Upgrade	<p>In response to council and community advocacy, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) have taken steps to address a variety of active transport concerns related to the Warringah Freeway Upgrade.</p> <p>North Sydney Council attended a workshop organised by TfNSW in late December. Council staff raised their concerns about the project and the methods of consultation.</p> <p>Further workshops are planned for 2023 and Council will continue to advocate for better active transport outcomes.</p>
Route 3 – Kirribilli to Mosman	<p>The North Sydney Council Operational Plan plans to implement the ICS Priority Route 3 - Active Transport pedestrian/cycleway program.</p> <p>Previously exhibited designs are currently under review to consider community concerns.</p>
Bike Strategy and Action Plan	<p>The North Sydney Council Operational Plan aims to review the Integrated Cycling Strategy 2014. An application has been made to the Get NSW Active program to fund the delivery of the review.</p> <p>Council staff will work towards a project plan and consultant brief in the coming months.</p> <p>The review of the strategy will include a bike infrastructure audit.</p>
Miller Street Pop-Up	<p>The Miller Street Pop-Up was constructed in 2021 and was funded by the NSW Government grant - Streets as Shared Spaces program. Consultation on the Pop-up closed on 4 November 2022.</p> <p>Consultation outcomes were taken to a Council meeting on 13 February 2023. Council resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.THAT</b> Council retains the Miller Street Pop-up during Sydney Metro construction due to the ongoing closures of the footpath on the eastern side of Miller Street and to aid pedestrian safety.</li> <li><b>2.THAT</b> the closed left-hand turn slip lane onto Miller Street from Pacific Highway and pedestrian island removal be retained and formalised with a kerb realignment.</li> </ol>

	<p><b>3. THAT Council utilise consultation feedback and work with Transport for NSW on the design and construction of Miller Place.</b></p> <p>Council staff will work towards these recommendations.</p>
<p>Get NSW Active Grants</p>	<p>Applications for the Get NSW Active grant program were open from November to January 6 2023. Council made eight (8) applications totalling approximately \$4 million.</p> <p>Transport for NSW has announced three priority projects in the first tranche, however North Sydney Council was not successful for this round. The second tranche of projects will be announced in April.</p>
<p>Inter-Council Planning Workshop</p>	<p>Council staff from North Sydney Council, City of Willoughby and Lane Cove Council attended an inter-Council workshop to plan potential joint infrastructure, research, programs and events. The purpose of the workshop was to identify opportunities to improve efficiencies, cross promote and ultimately deliver greater outcomes for the community.</p> <p>The workshop covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure – upcoming walking and cycling infrastructure projects, and reviewing the connection points of the three Council proposed cycling networks.</li> <li>• Events – collaboration Ride to Work day, Spring Cycle, Super Tuesday Count.</li> <li>• Programs – Bike repair workshops, behaviour change programs, bike recycling programs, cross promotion.</li> <li>• Research – opportunities for data collection and research that can improve data driven decision making.</li> </ul> 
<p>Response to Sustainable Transport Reference Group Recommendation</p>	<p>On Monday 12 December, Council resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. THAT Council notes this report and the attached Minutes of the Sustainable Transport Reference Group 21 November 2022 for formal adoption by Council.</b></li> <li><b>2. THAT Council redoubles its efforts to ensure Transport for NSW properly and fully consults with Council and other stakeholders as required under the Instrument of Approval and provide additional active</b></li> </ol>

*transport infrastructure as part of Warringah Freeway Upgrade project, and that we also continue to lobby about pedestrian and cyclist access during construction of the Warringah Freeway Upgrade including that due to removal of the pedestrian and cyclists bridges and underpasses.*

**3. THAT** Council lobby the State Government to introduce buttonless pedestrian crossings as in the City of Sydney council area where the pedestrian crossing phase is never skipped and requires no prompting from a button presser to show green. It should also lobby the State Government to introduce pedestrian crossing countdowns (such as at the intersection of Elizabeth and Market Streets in the City) at major intersections in North Sydney, as well as the pedestrians' green man light being on a few seconds before the green light allows the traffic to move forward. This then allows the pedestrians time to enter the road before any turning traffic.

**4 THAT** Council writes to Transport for NSW demanding that they address the issues with the existing shared path between Arthur Street and Blue Street and that a separate bike path and a separate footpath be constructed utilising the existing shared path and spare capacity in the road space, to provide both a safe fully usable space for cyclists and enhance pedestrian safety.

**5 THAT** Council writes to Transport for NSW to request they re-enlighten their pop-up proposal for the Pacific Highway Cycleway as either a permanent or trial separate bike path.

**6. THAT** at such time as the cycleway is to be redesigned that there be consideration to ensuring there is no potential danger to anybody egressing from the Xavier Terraces Retirement Village, and to provide enough space for people to exit that building without being threatened by bicycles.

**7 THAT** Council review the Integrated Cycling Strategy, and that we invite a representative from Police to the next Sustainable Transport meeting to discuss policing issues that impact on active transport.

In response to this resolution, Council staff sent a letter to TfNSW detailing the issues raised.