

3.1. Workshop - West Street Stage 2 Design

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ENDORSED BY	Gary Parsons, Director Open Space and Infrastructure
ATTACHMENTS	1. Attachment A draft Community Engagement Strategy West Street Stage 2 [3.1.1 - 7 pages]
CSP LINK	2. Our Built Infrastructure 2.3 Prioritise sustainable and active transport 5. Our Civic Leadership 5.3 Community is engaged in what Council does

PURPOSE:

- The purpose of this report is to outline the agenda for the West Street Stage 2 design feedback workshop.
- The workshop will seek feedback from the Sustainable Transport Reference Group (STRG) members on the proposed designs for West Street Stage 2 – Cycling, Walking and Streetscape upgrades.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- West Street Stage 2 – Cycling, Walking and Streetscape Upgrades are on exhibition from Tuesday 5 December 2023 and Sunday 3 March 2024.
- As a part of consultation, council staff will facilitate a workshop with the STRG members and this report outlines the workshop agenda.
- The workshop will seek feedback from the STRG members on the West Street Stage 2 and discuss potential solutions to identified issues.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the agenda for the West Street Stage 2 design workshop be received.

BACKGROUND

West Street Cycleway (between Ridge Street and Amhurst Street) forms a section of Route 1. Sydney Harbour Bridge Cycleway to St Leonards identified in the adopted North Sydney Integrated Cycling Strategy (ICS).

Route 1 is a key cycling connection as it connects North Sydney's residents to the Harbour Bridge and the Sydney CBD. The route currently carries approximately 400 cyclists each day although the connection is predominantly on-road and not safe for more vulnerable users, such as young people and older adults.

In April 2022, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) released an overview of the Strategic Cycleway Corridors - Eastern Harbour City. The North Sydney cycling connections have been categorised as an immediate opportunity, aligning to the Sydney CBD to Chatswood Corridor. This connection has a desired outcome to provide:

'A safe connection between Milson Point, North Sydney and St Leonards will improve access to Sydney Harbour Bridge and support forecast growth' (p.5)

The West Street Cycleway is a part of a key cycling connection identified in both Council and State strategies.



Image 1. Context map West Street Cycling, Walking and Streetscape Upgrades Stage 2

The community engagement strategy (draft strategy is available Attachment A) for West Street Stage 2 identifies a design feedback workshop with the STRG members. The following section outlines the workshop purpose and activities.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Workshop Purpose

The purpose of this workshop is to:

- Inform STRG members of the key features of the West Street Stage 2 design.
- Seek comment from STRG members on the design.
- Discuss potential solutions to identified issues.

Activities

Agenda Item	Responsible	Time (mins)
<i>Introduction, Background and Overview</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Strategic context- Presentation outlining the key elements of the West Street Stage 2 designs.- Next Steps	STRG Chair Sustainable Transport Coordinator	10
<i>Workshop activity: Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- STRG members will form 3 groups.- Each group will have 10 minutes on each section of the design to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the designs, opportunities for improvement and potential threats to the success of the project.- Feedback will be provided via post-it notes on large print outs of the design.	All	30
Break		5
<i>Workshop activity: Problem Solving identified issues.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Top three strengths and issues will be identified by council staff.- Round table discussion identifying potential solutions to the issues.	All	10
Close	STRG Chair	5

Consultation requirements

Community engagement will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Community Engagement Protocol.

Designs for West Street Stage 2 – Cycling, Walking and Streetscape Upgrades are on exhibition from Tuesday 5 December 2023 and Sunday 3 March 2024. Consultation activities are outlined in the community engagement strategy (draft strategy available Attachment A).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY



West Street Stage 2 - Cycling, Walking and Streetscape Upgrades

Prepared 16 November 2023

Councils are required under the *Local Government Act 1993* to inform the community of particular issues that potentially affect their way of life. North Sydney Council is committed both in principle and in practice, to engaging on matters affecting the North Sydney community. Community engagement opportunities will be provided across a range of 'engagement' levels.

1. Introduction

This Community Engagement Strategy outlines the steps Council will take to engage the community on the concept design for West Street Stage 2 - Cycling, Walking and Streetscape Upgrades.

1.1. Council's Community Engagement Protocol

This strategy has been prepared in accordance with Council's *Community Engagement Protocol*. The Protocol is used to determine the level of 'level(s) of impact' applicable to this project/decision (proposal). This proposal has been determined as:

LEVEL OF IMPACT	LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT
High/Local	Inform/Consult

Council used the framework shown below in Table 1.1 to select the most appropriate 'level(s) of engagement' for this proposal to ensure an appropriate range of engagement 'levels' and methods were offered:

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
Inform	Providing balanced and objective information to help the community understand problems, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions
Consult	Obtain public feedback on alternatives and/or decisions
Involve	Work directly with the community throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered
Collaborate	Partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and identification of the preferred solution

Table 1.1 Derived from the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum

2. Background

West Street Cycleway (between Ridge Street and Amhurst Street) forms a section of *Route 1. Sydney Harbour Bridge Cycleway to St Leonards* identified in the adopted North Sydney Integrated Cycling Strategy (ICS).

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Route 1 is a key cycling connection as it connects North Sydney's residents to the Harbour Bridge and the Sydney CBD. The route currently carries approximately 400 cyclists each day although the connection is predominantly on-road and not safe for more vulnerable users, such as young people and older adults.

Strategic Merit

In April 2022, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) released an overview of the Strategic Cycleway Corridors - Eastern Harbour City. The North Sydney cycling connections have been categorised as an immediate opportunity, aligning to the Sydney CBD to Chatswood Corridor. This connection has a desired outcome to:

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The West Street Cycleway is a part of a key cycling connection identified in both Council and State strategies.

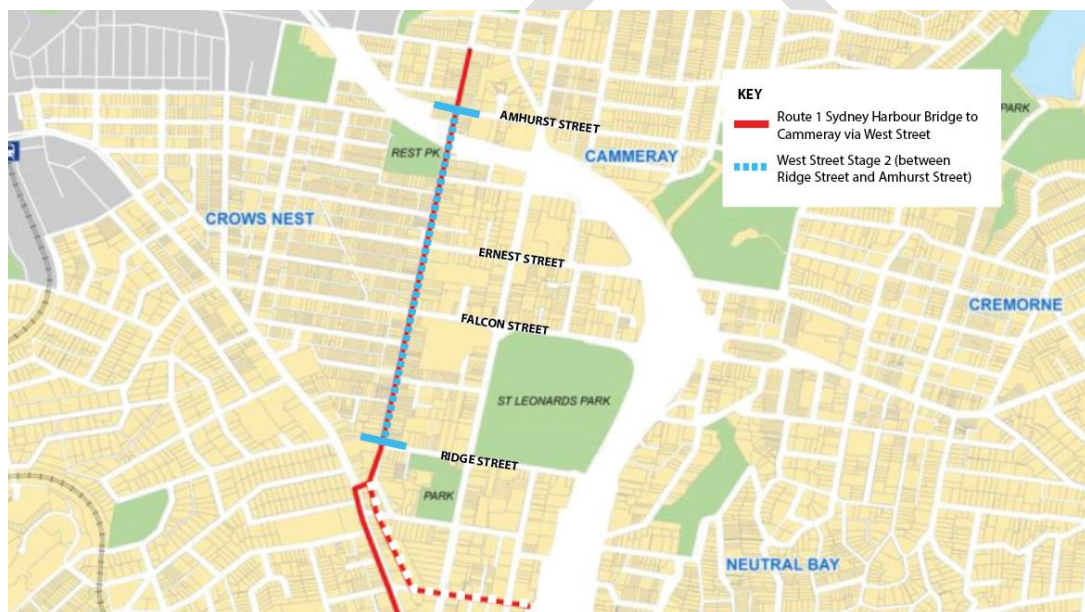


Image 1. Context map West Street Cycling, Walking and Streetscape Upgrades Stage 2

3. Community Engagement Strategy

3.1. Who are our community stakeholders?

The Engagement Strategy identifies the following groups to engage within the local community:

- government agencies - TfNSW, Road and Maritime Services, Sydney Buses, Sydney Water
- advocacy groups - Bicycle NSW, Bike North, Bike Sydney, North Shore Bicycle Group
- Precinct Committees - Stanton, Hayberry and Edward

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- residents
- educational institutions (primary and high schools along the route)
- businesses - cafés and other services along the route
- North Shore Local Area Command - North Sydney Police Station
- Sustainable Transport Reference Group members

3.2. Key Communication Messages

- Council is seeking feedback on a final concept design for the West Street Walking, Cycling and Streetscape Upgrades between Ridge Street and Amhurst Street. The design includes new plantings, pavement upgrades, separated pedestrian and cyclist crossing, and the extension of the West Street bi-directional cycleway.
- The proposed cycleway will complete a missing link in Priority Route 1 Sydney Harbour Bridge Cycleway to West Street identified in Council's Integrated Cycling Strategy. West Street is a key connection to the North Sydney and Sydney CBD and has an estimated average weekday ridership of 400 trips per day.
- There will be an estimated 30 additional trees planted along the route with one tree to be removed.
- The community can provide feedback on the concept design via the online feedback form or email.
- Consultation will be open for 90 days and close on Sunday 3 March 2024. All feedback received will be collated and analysed, and where possible, incorporated into the final design. The designs will be reviewed by the North Sydney Traffic Committee before being reported to Council for adoption. Stakeholders will be kept up to date with progress. Sign up via the Your Say North Sydney webpage to receive updates on upcoming key dates and milestones.
- If approved by Council, construction is due to start once grant funding is secured.

3.3. Timetable

Community and stakeholder engagement will occur at various times during the 90-day consultation period. The key project development phases are outlined in the following table:

PHASE	TIMING
1a. Design consultation (public exhibition)	Tuesday 5 December 2023 to Sunday 3 March 2024
1b. Final Design (incorporating feedback)	April to June 2024
2. North Sydney Traffic Committee review and endorsement	July to August 2024
3. Post Exhibition Report to North Sydney Council and planned adoption	Late 2024
4. Construction	TBC (dependent on grant funding)

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Note: In accordance with Council's Community Engagement Framework described on page 1, the 'level of engagement' per engagement method is indicated.

3.3.1 Phase 1 - Design Consultation

Between Tuesday 5 December 2023 to Sunday 3 March 2024 Council will offer various methods by which community and stakeholders can participate in Phase 1 allowing the community to participate at times that best suit their needs and commitments.

Not listed in priority order:

Method	Target Stakeholders	Engage Level	Purpose
Website (includes Your Say web page)	All	Inform	Provide information about the project and direct people to how they can have a say e.g. consultation opportunities.
Flyer (overview of the project)			
Signage onsite	Residents		
Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn	Existing followers and local groups with social media accounts		
eNews	Subscribers of Council, Precincts and Business eNews		
Letterbox Drop	In the vicinity of the proposed project and surrounding areas		
Direct emails/letter to key stakeholders	Bicycle Advocacy Groups, Transport for NSW	Inform	
Recorded Information Session (x1)	All	Inform	Providing project overview and Frequently Asked Questions
Onsite Walkthrough (x2)	All	Inform	Walkthrough of the project site providing stakeholders the opportunity to ask questions. Sites include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emmet Street and West Street - Burlington Street and West Street

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Method	Target Stakeholders	Engage Level	Purpose
Door Knock (X1)	Businesses	Inform	Provide information about the project and direct businesses to how they can have a say e.g. consultation opportunities.
Drop-in Information stall (X4)	All	Inform	Council staff to host 4 X pop-up stalls across the LGA to promote the project and provide opportunity to ask questions. This will include a stall at the Northside Produce Markets (X2) and locations around the project area
Precinct System Information Session	Stanton, Hayberry and Edward	Inform	Invitation to precincts for an online information session with opportunity to ask questions.
Precinct System Memo	Stanton, Hayberry and Edward	Inform / Consult	Encourage Precinct Committees to promote consultation opportunity to their members and/or to make a submission
Feedback Workshop	Sustainable Transport Reference Group members	Involve	Deliver workshop with group members to discuss the designs, identify strengths and issues, and provide input into potential improvements.
Notification to Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Sydney Boys - Cammeraygal High - North Sydney Girls - North Sydney Public School - Marist and St Mary's - Monte Saint' Angelo - Mercy College - Wenona School 	Inform	Invitation to schools offering site visit with opportunity to ask questions.
Notification to neighbouring LGAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Willoughby City Council - Lane Cove Council 	Inform	Invitation to neighbouring councils informing them of the design and

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Method	Target Stakeholders	Engage Level	Purpose
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mosman Council - City of Sydney 		encouraging submissions/comment.
Submissions	All	Consult	Free form feedback accepted by email or posted letter as well as via online form (series of questions).

3.3.2 Phase 2 - Post Exhibition Report to Traffic Committee/Council

All feedback received will be collated and analysed, and an outcomes report prepared. This will be submitted to the North Sydney Traffic Committee for review in between July to August 2024. A copy of the consultation report will be included for review.

The post-exhibition report will be submitted to a Council Meeting in late 2024 presenting the collated feedback received during the exhibition period, together with the final design and the Traffic Committee's recommendation for review and endorsement. Submitters will be informed of the outcomes.

3.3.3 Phase 3 - Construction

Council officers will prepare procurement documentation for construction of West Street Stage 2 - Cycling, Walking & Streetscape Upgrades. Assuming Council endorsement, construction is due to commence once grant funding is secured. Residents and businesses will be notified of construction and signage installed on site.

4. Opportunity Cost/Rationale

Engaging the community in this proposal may entail financial costs to Council to achieve a high-quality engagement process. If the process is robust, community ownership of the decisions made will ensure efficient outcomes. Insufficient or poor-quality engagement can result in poor long-term decisions requiring further resources to rectify. The aim of a high-quality community engagement process is to make sustainable decisions. The engagement process will help Council staff and/or Councillors to understand the related recommendations rationale.

5. Further Information

For further information please contact Max White, Sustainable Transport Project Coordinator, Traffic and Transport Operations Department:

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