

Lake Macquarie City Active Transport Advisory Group Meeting No. 6

30 August 2018

Agenda

- Presentation on Lake Mac 2050 Transport Study
- Design considerations Speers Point to Glendale shared path
- Review proposed road line marking Oakdale Road, Gateshead
- Overview of conference – Heart Foundation
- Draft program for future meetings

Record of discussion

The group briefly discussed how best to spend meeting time – discussion of strategy versus commenting on major projects. The general consensus was both are valuable, in line with the agreed ATAG program.

Lake Mac 2050 Transport Study

Council staff presented on the Lake Mac 2050 Transport Study. Highlights:

- Cannot isolate transport from land use planning. Lake Mac 2050 is a high-level land use strategy that seeks to progress the City Vision. It does this through influencing practices and policies that affect the distribution of people and activities.
- Scope of the study: (1) What is our 'preferred transport future' by 2050? (2) How does the current experience compare to the preferred future? (3) What are our options and which ones help us achieve our preferred future?
- Preferred transport future is one that:
 - provides choice
 - is affordable
 - safe and comfortable
 - healthy
 - sustainable
 - adaptable
- What are our options and which ones help us get to the preferred future? Consultants developed seven policy objectives that speak to the preferred future. Options were assessed against these policy objectives and other factors, such as level of Council influence or control; and indicative financial cost to public authorities over a 30 year period.
 - The group noted other factors could be costed, such as health outcomes, but that this was not within the scope of the study.
- A key active transport challenge for our current geography is that even if 50% of forecast population growth to 2050 occurs within 10 minutes walk of town centres, only 14% of the projected population will live in these areas. The legacy of a relatively dispersed, low-density urban form will place limits on the role of walking within a more sustainable transport system, and other

transport modes such as public transport providing for longer-distance transport will also be crucial, including good pedestrian access to public transport stops.

- The group noted commuting bicycling catchments are generally 20 – 30 minutes.
- To achieve the preferred transport future actually takes all recommendations working together.
- There are typically trade-offs to be had with improving walking and cycling experiences—often this plays out with push back associated with loss of parking spaces. But remember, what strategies align with the preferred transport future?

Following the presentation the group agreed to meet to prepare a submission to Lake Mac 2050. During the discussion:

- It was noted the priority bus route through Mount Hutton had dropped from the Lake Mac 2050 maps
- A question was asked about whether a light rail could be envisioned from Newcastle to Charlestown

Design considerations Speers Point to Glendale shared path

- Council Staff presented on a proposed continuous footpath treatment for the shared pathway in Frederick Street, Glendale.
- The treatment will allow for pedestrian and cyclist priority across George Street and will provide a traffic calmed entry into George Street, enhancing its function as a quiet local street. The entry into George Street will not be impeded and will operate the same way as a driveway or business entry from a typical road.

Following the presentation the group agreed that the treatment is supported. During the discussion:

- The group requested that the layback be constructed without a lip to improve safety for cyclists utilising the treatment to enter the shared pathway from Frederick Street.
- The group also requested that Council Staff investigate options to connect the shared pathway to Glendale shops and the Lake Macquarie Transport Interchange in the future.

Review of proposed line markings Oakdale Road Gateshead

- The Traffic Facilities and Road Safety Committee resolved to defer the matter of line marking options at Gateshead to improve the visibility and comfort of people on bicycles.
- The group agreed to review the line marking and investigate options for further discussions at the group's next meeting.

Next steps and potential agenda items for next meeting

Next meeting

Special September meeting to prepare submission to draft Lake Mac 2050.

Meeting program timeline

This is now available online and will be updated as the group's activities evolve, while speaking to the short and long-term goals of the group, also available at:

<https://www.lakemac.com.au/activetransport>

Other news provided in-between meetings

The Heart Foundation is providing eight Active Innovation Challenge grants of \$10,000 every year for four years. The first round closes 23 September.

We would like to invite the group to think about whether they have any ideas that may be worthy of submitting.

Council staff have limited time to contribute, however, could participate in a brainstorming session 4.30pm to 5.30pm Thursday 13 September, prior to the next meeting.

One idea is to leverage an initiative of Council's Smart City Program to explore cheap ways of generating data on how current walking and cycling infrastructure is used. This initiative is investigating how new, small devices can provide anonymous information to improve the experience and performance of public spaces and facilities.

As part of this initiative, Council is jointly hosting the [Smart, Liveable Neighbourhoods Challenge](#) currently open to the public. A submission to the Active Innovation Challenge Grants could easily build upon this initiative, using the City's [new low power communication network](#).

Ultimately the group can decide and Council can provide guidance on how it could support the group. The proposal simply has to respond to the health problems associated with inactivity, without replicating existing local initiatives.

You may already know of someone in the Lake Macquarie community who is thinking about applying. Could the Active Transport Advisory Group get involved?

[More information](#) and [eligibility and judging criteria](#)