

Lake Macquarie City Active Transport Advisory Group Meeting No. 2

31 January 2018

Agenda

Summary

Session 1 – Thinking about this group's purpose

Break

Session 2 – Thinking about local initiatives, challenges and opportunities

Next steps

Detailed

Session 1

Small groups ~20 minutes

Write down your group's thoughts (keywords / key concepts) on A5 bits of paper

- What is our purpose?
- What role are we playing that is really adding value?
- What would success look like?
- What's giving us influence? How will we function such that we have enormous influence?

Session 2

Write down your group's thoughts (keywords / key concepts) on A5 bits of paper

- *What do I know about what Council (and other stakeholders) is doing in the active transport space (and transport space more broadly)?*
- *What should we (everyone) be doing more of?*
- *How should this group be involved for the above activities?*

Record of discussion

Session 1 – Thinking about the group's purpose

What would success look like (for this group and the City)?

Is there a theme here?

- Having our advice adopted by Council
- Well advised/meaningful policies

- Outcomes from the group are 'owned' by the group
- Being credible and professional
- The group feel valued and respected by Council
- Building social capital

Is there a theme here?

- Meeting the community's expectations
- A more active population on average
- Better community health
- More appealing environment
- More efficient transport network
- Efficient public spending
- What is our focus? Recreation? Mobility for less mobile people? Health? Car alternatives? Transport? Tourism? Connectivity of different modes?

What is the group's purpose?

- Review and reality check submissions
- Empower the community through citizen science, data collection
- Identify priority/strategic projects (by first developing an evaluation matrix to compare proposals)
- Draw on knowledge and experiences within the group to provide advice to Council and have input on strategic planning, policies and projects that relate to walking, cycling and public transport, including reviewing new and existing policies

*What role are we playing that is really adding value? What's giving us influence?
How will we function such that we will have enormous influence?*

- Diverse group with various life experiences from various Lake Macquarie communities
- Our credible, strategic (citywide) advice is respected by Council as a specialised user group
- Working toward consensus
- Looking at safety
- Experience and diversity
- Passions
- Creative discussion
- Consensus
- Being focused on the big picture

Potential actions stemming from this session:

- Define our own standard/picture of success for active transport relevant to Lake Macquarie

Session 2 – Thinking about local initiatives, challenges and opportunities

What do I know about what Council and other stakeholders are doing in the active transport space (and transport space more broadly)?

How should this group be involved for the above activities?

- City vision and values – Council undertook extensive community consultation in 2016 to renew the city vision and values. Active transport was the community's number 1 priority issue.
- Council established this group; has shown willingness
- Planning cycleway routes
- Major projects
- Develops policies and strategies to engage with community
- Road resurfacing with cycling lanes (unsafe?)
- Planning Minister Rob Stokes MP – spoke in favour of active transport in November 2017, however, State Government funding for active transport is low per head of population
- Change Council's focus – more roads always lead to more road congestion (making it easier to drive and park encourages more people to opt to drive); more people cycling leads to reductions in road congestion
- Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) – no budget commitment to meet goals
- RMS major projects typically include provision of shared path

What should we (everyone) be doing more of?

- Listening to and incorporating community feedback (and closing the loop on this feedback, i.e. we listened and this was the outcome)
- Providing more information to the community on active transport projects generally and where the money is being spent

We'd like more information on relevant

- plans, policies and projects/proposals;
- budgeting, e.g. general budget funding (rates) versus Section 94 development contributions versus grant funding
- what is the opportunity cost of providing footpath and cycling infrastructure when roads are being upgraded? (and different types, e.g. on-road shoulder – unsafe; kerb separated; off-road parallel shared path, etc.)

Potential actions stemming from this session:

- Provide advice to Council on how to update the Council website to provide easier access to information on active transport related activities

Next steps and suggested agenda items for next meeting

Invitation to presentation

Council staff invited the group to a presentation by consultants MRCagney engaged by Council to prepare a citywide transport study to inform the City's long-term land use planning strategy, *Lake Mac 2050*.

Monday 19 February, 4pm – 5.30pm, Council Chambers, 126 Main Road Speers Point.

Next meeting

Staff recommended the next meeting occur after the above presentation.

Poll requested to select date.

Governance and idea of sub-groups

During discussion it was suggested sub-groups could form to undertake specific activities or investigations and report back to the group with recommendations.

This idea of sub-groups was generally supported, noting that there are some pressing priorities for the group to consider, however, the prevailing thinking was that the group should work together for the time being to work toward consensus decision-making and to maintain a 'strategic' outlook.

Council staff undertook to prepare a suggested program of activities for the next six months, to be unpacked and refined by the group at the next meeting after the presentation on 19 February, including consideration of the role of sub-groups going forward. It was envisioned this schedule of activities could include opportunities for the group to tackle priority projects.

Potential actions that emerged, to be revisited and refined:

Define local best practice/success

Define our own standard, benchmark or picture of what success or best practice looks like for active transport in our City and measure this with data going forward.

Improve access to information

Provide advice to Council on how to update the Council website to provide easier access to information on active transport related activities; and guidance on the type of information to be made available to the community.

Discover relevant activities

Devote time to discovering and determining which active transport related activities being undertaken by Council and other stakeholders are relevant to this group.

Refine purpose and goals

Use the above activities to refine the group's purpose and key tasks.

Determine priorities

Figure out how to balance the need for being strategic (have a citywide perspective) while also looking at priorities already identified.

Contemplate governance

Revisit the idea of forming sub-groups - in the future - to undertake specific activities or investigations and report back to the group with recommendations.

To aid consideration of the above, Council staff undertook to prepare a suggested program of activities for the next six months, to be workshopped by the group at subsequent meetings.

In addition, the following links to Council's website may be useful to the group. These pages include links to a number of plans and policies, which we anticipate might be the subject of discussion by the group down the track.

- [Active Transport Advisory Group](#)
- [Transport and road infrastructure](#)
- [Cycleways](#)
- [Footpaths, kerbs and gutters](#)
- [Public transport](#)
- [Map of \(Major\) City works proposed for the 2017/2018 financial year](#)
- [Aging and Disability](#)
- [Town Centre Streetscape Master Plans](#)
- [Town Centre Area Plans - Part 10 - Lake Macquarie Development Control Plan](#)
- [Section 94 Development Contribution Catchment Plans \(scroll to bottom\)](#)

Council staff also made reference to best practice resources the group might draw on, such as the recently developed Global Street Design Guide, [available online](#).