

Accessibility for All Forum Minutes

Friday 17 March 2023 – 10.00 am

Tasman Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

Present: Malcolm Saunders (Chair), Councillor Campbell Rollo (Nelson City Council), John Harwood (Independent, Hearing association previously), Mike Stephens (Blind Citizens Nelson), Roger Curry (Blind Citizens Nelson), Karen Wilson (Blind Citizens Nelson), Sharon Webber (Hearing Therapist), Kay Halkett (Community Dual sensory loss), David Kemp (Social Activist), Councillor Glen Daikee (Tasman District Council), Jane Murray (Tasman District Council), Marg Parfitt (Nelson City Council), Maureen Keogan (Grey Power), Pam Coltman (Grey Power), Elizabeth Perrone (CCS Disability Action)

Apologies: Hana Wilkinson, Nicky McDonald, Dwayne Fletcher, Mitchell Rhodes, Jamie McPherson

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Mr Saunders, Chair, welcomed everyone to today's meeting and asked that they introduce themselves and the organisation they represented.

2. Streets for People Project

Ms Parfitt said NSN have secured funding from Waka Kotahi improving access. The Streets for People project is now running a survey. Link here:

<https://shape.nelson.govt.nz/streets-people> and here is the link for forum feedback <https://shape.nelson.govt.nz/feedback>

Ms Murray presented the feedback for Waimea Road – Ms Ellis will email a link to the survey with the minutes so people can complete the survey.

<https://shape.tasman.govt.nz/transport-choices-2023/richmond-plans-and-projects>

Ms Coltman noted what a wonderful job they were doing however, Wensley Road is not wide enough for both cyclists and motorists. There is a deviation for cyclists but they don't use it as they want to travel the direct route to schools. Senior pedestrians are important in this area and also need to be accommodated.

3. Transport Choices

Ms Parfitt - Shifting focus to other options of transport. Have received funding from central government.

In the presentation from Nelson City Council, there is a proposed link from Nelson East to Waimea Road. Public consultation begins at the end of April.

There was discussion around reducing carpark spaces on some streets to allow for cycleways.

Ms Murray – List to do:

- Wensley Oxford roundabout improvement, Hill Street/William Street intersections. More raised pedestrian crossings;
- William/Hill and Churchill – alignment issue;
- Raised speed tables around Henley School Cycleway William and Churchill Street – for Richmond Primary;
- Secure cycle parking as well;
- Hopefully maps will be available for the next meeting.

Ms Coltman asked how raised pedestrian crossings improve safety. Ms Parfitt noted a raised crossing is safer as the vertical deflection (hump) ensures vehicles slow down and channels cyclists to a safer place. Ms Murray noted that having the crossing further away from a roundabout improved safety as there is focus on the pedestrians at the crossing first and then further along drivers focus moves to the traffic at the intersection and the same in reverse as leaving the intersection.

Ms Parfitt noted that Songer Street is about to have a raised crossing with a priority zebra and cycle crossing point. There has been a shift in the way we plan and build our roads and accommodate vulnerable road users.

Ms Keogan noted that bells for bikes were helpful and were provided in the past.

Ms Parfitt agreed and said she uses a bell and calls out “passing on the right” when riding. However, not all cyclists do this. Ebike riders are often the speeders on the cycleways and roads and can do 30km. Ms Parfitt questioned whether this was an appropriate speed on a shared path. A separate cycle path is deliberate, but this often comes at the expense of roadside parking.

In answer to questions about Main Road Stoke and Songer Street, Ms Parfitt recommended to continue advocating for improved crossings and footpaths.

Mr Harwood noted there was sun blindness along the road on Queen Street opposite the library and by the Richmond Mall entrance. Ms Murray will follow this up to see if there is anything that can be mitigated.

Ms Coltman noted Wensley Road footpaths are not wide enough and police do not report on cycle accidents.

Ms Parfitt noted that Nelson City Council set up a phone number to report cycle accidents on 0800CYCLECRASH. It is still going and they maintain a database of incidents reported.

Ms Parfitt discussed the Bridge Street Linear Active Transport Corridor - Infrastructure Acceleration Fund (IAF). This is in the Annual Plan and submissions can be made during the consultation period in May and June.

Ms Parfitt noted that there is a Traffic and Parking Bylaw provision about skateboards and scooters on footpaths. Currently there is a ban on these in the city centre. There is a strong argument for these to be included so look out for this in the consultation document and ensure you inform the elected members.

Ms Coltman noted that the height of seat backs is important. Ms Murray will check the Council guidelines, noting that we can only advocate at privately owned establishments, e.g. the mall.

4. Public transport contract and services coming in July 2023

Ms Parfitt – presentation on the new bus service launch - routes and timetable.

Ms Wilson - Electric buses – will there be a noise at low speed and stop – for deaf.

Ms Coltman noted that there will be a bus to the airport every 30mins, every day of the week, 7 days. \$1 or \$2 for gold card. The bus will travel via the Port Hills but passengers can also get off at Tahunanui.

Ms Halkett asked if there would be tactile warning tiles to assist with knowing where the buses are at the bus exchange and suggested looking at any flaws in the Christchurch bus exchange. Ms Parfitt said the bus hub will be at the existing Bridge Street site, with some improvements. Ms Parfitt will find out exactly sight-impaired will know which bus is which, noting that the audible readers will help.

Mr Curry asked if there is an audio system on the buses. Ms Parfitt will investigate but doesn't think so and there may be an additional cost if it is added.

Ms Wilson suggested that drivers ask passengers where they want to get off and let them know when their stop is next, this should be included in the customer services/driver training.

Ms Murray noted that the new Motueka service runs four times a day with a stop in both Tasman and Mapua in both directions.

5. Total Mobility Subsidy and Community Connect

Ms Parfitt provided an update on bus fares concessions for CSC holders – (although it depends if the government extends half price bus fares).

Ms Parfitt confirmed that the Government increased subsidy is now permanent up to the cap and there is no longer an expiry date on them. Please ignore the expiry date, they will continue to work and when you are due a new card they will be issued without expiry dates on them.

Ms Parfitt said to email her with requests to become an assessor and she will forward the information needed as there is quite a process involved. It is easiest to send clients

to the current assessors - CCS or Age Concern. Epilepsy New Zealand were recently added as well.

Ms Parfitt presented a Community Connect update noting that Supergold card holders who are also CSC card holders will need to get another Bee Card. We will load the CSC concession onto the second card so supergold people can travel at half price at peak times. These cards will be available free when the Community Connect roll out occurs.

A new BEE card usually costs \$5. BEE Cards can be used in 10 regions around the country – Northland, Waikato, Gisborne, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Manawatū-Whanganui, Nelson, Otago and Invercargill.

In 2026 the “Project NEXT” is rolled out across the entire country. An integrated ticking scheme will be introduced that cover trains, ferry service (not interislander) and buses. Transit cards are an option but there is also the ability to pay without a Transit card using a debit card or apple pay on phones etc.

Ms Parfitt confirmed a new pedestrian crossing radar at the Main Road Stoke/Songer Street intersection. The radar ensures that traffic lights are held long enough so that pedestrians can cross safely and will be operational on 20 March.

Ms Parfitt said that work will start on lighting the Railway Reserve next week.

Ms Parfitt confirmed that the Councils and Police will be giving away bicycle lights at dawn and dusk from next week.

6. General Business

Mr Kemp wanted it noted that the seating at NCC Tararua trail and Saxton Field is very sensible and he would like to see more of them. Tracking where people go and have seating in the nodes where several people come together, works.

Ms Parfitt said the forum can take the credit as they requested the seating.

Councillor Rolo is also on the Joint Council Saxton Field Committee and noted that they are about to start work linking up the footpaths to ensure you can walk through the whole thing area safely.

Ms Halkett thanked Ms Parfitt for the very clear and detailed presentation on the slides.

Councillor Rollo noted that he is happy to meet with any of the associations to hear their concerns as an elected member.

Next A4A Forum is scheduled for Friday 2 June 2023

The Chair Malcom Saunders thanked everyone for their input into the meeting.

Meeting closed at 11.35am.