

Accessibility for All Forum Minutes

Friday 18 November 2022 – 10.00 am

Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

Present: Malcolm Saunders, Drew Bryant, Rodger Curry, Jo Sinclair, Kay Halkett, Mike Stevens, David Kemp, Kate Malcolm, Yulia Panfylova, Jamie McPherson, Jane Murray, Maureen Keogan, Pam Coltman, Louise Winchester

Apologies: Ruby Aberhart, John Harwood, Elizabeth Dolliey, Karen Wilson and Marg Parfitt

Chairperson: Malcolm Saunders

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

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

Cr Campbell Rollo introduced himself and shared his commitment to make the community as accessible as possible.

David Kemp commented on how good the coastal bus service is, currently reliant on public transport and is impressed by the service allowing him to travel from Mahana to this meeting.

2. Jamie McPherson gave a presentation on Tasman District Council's Transport Update

2.1 Walking and Cycling Strategy

- accommodate all methods of transport safely;
- make urban environments nicer places to be;
- suburban areas set up better to accommodate people's needs;
- encourage people to make behaviour changes;
- give people a choice to not get in their car and drive;
- funding means can advance plans much sooner;
- outlined plan for rapid cycle lanes in Richmond – 6 streets and 3 intersections and in Mapua.

2.2 Streets for People project

- Pam Coltman Volunteers as A4A member on the 'Streets For People' programme. Yulia to get in touch with Pam.

2.3 Feedback and Questions from Jamie's presentation given:

- mobility scooters are not mentioned in the plan, from a local there are more mobility scooters than cyclists (Pam talking about Wensley Road) - need to factor these into the designs for the areas that cyclists are not as common and mobility scooters are;
- cycle lanes will get the cyclists off the pavements making it safer for people and mobility scooters;
- Wensley Road isn't safe for cyclists – if made safe, more people will cycle;
- connection between Suffolk Road and Hill Street?
- NCC actively working on a route for emergencies but do not want to create a bypass to let people use instead of the current road;
- cyclists don't like roundabouts - signalised crossings are best;
- roundabouts are not user friendly for the blind – signalised crossings are the only effective way.

3. Drew Bryant gave a presentation on Nelson City Council's Transport Update:

3.1 The E tū Whakatū – Nelson's active travel strategy update

- 'Pedestrians' include mobility scooters and walking frames etc.

3.2 Streets for People – Hospital Connection project update

3.3 Innovative Streets Pathway to Permanence project update

- things that can be put in quickly and moved around as necessary;
- average speed on streets around schools has dropped about 20km/hr to around 34km/hr. Was a temporary measure, going to make permanent.

3.4 Update on Public transport contract and services coming in July next year

- new Services coming in next year: 7am-7pm seven days a week, every 30 minutes;
- through routing at bus interchanges;
- new bus route to the airport, Wakefield and Motueka;
- new express services between Richmond and Nelson (only stopping at the Hospital);
- on Demand service around Stoke – arrange by app and phone;
- 17 new electric buses – will be highest proportion out of any urban area in New Zealand;
- buses will lower to curb line for disabled access and floor is flatter for longer making easier access;
- Unable to add more capacity for bikes.

3.5 Infrastructure

- new Interchanges (low level to begin with and will progressively improve, e.g toilets, lockers etc);
- new bus stops;
- secure bike racks, shelters and seating;

- the priority is getting the service going and then adding shelters/seating when they see the demand. - Nelson City Centre Interchange will be first. There will be an inside waiting area, toilets, café, seating, bus bays with clear signage.

3.6 Community Connect (bus fare discount update)

- half price bus fares end 31 January 2023;
- half price for community services cardholders starts February 2023.

3.7 Bee Card supergold concession update

- NCC will issue BeeCards with Community Services card concessions to Supergold cardholders;
- expired Total mobility cards will still be accepted;
- questions on what the BeeCards are for and why they are needed?
- Drew explained that BeeCards speed up the process of people getting on and off as less cash transactions. They also help identify who is getting on and off and where. This data helps the council tailor towards that (shows highest proportion of people is high school kids), so can modify services to cater for the demand.

3.8 Parking Strategy update

- there is always tension between Movement, Place and Parking – what's most important? Priorities differ on different locations (eg Trafalgar Street, seating and trees are more important than parking, therefore parking is sacrificed);
- commercial or residential areas have different priorities for parking (eg commercial areas need loading zones, taxi ranks and customer parking).

3.9 Feedback and Questions from Drew's presentation given:

- consensus that it was a marvellous presentation, everyone happy to see so much in the process and that things are being done;
- Drew responded that it is a Regional Transport Committee – Tasman and Nelson councils are working together as one region;
- Kate thanked Drew for thinking about bike lock ups at the interchanges, stating how it will enable more people who live further from the bus stops able to cycle and leave their bikes safely at the bus stops instead of driving;
- Drew replied that is too early for any details about the bike lock ups, as they will be installed later and the idea is that there should be a good enough service that people won't need to cycle to the bus stops;
- Jane Murray questioned whether any youth will be involved in what's wanted at the new bus interchanges? This was previously done in Christchurch after the earthquake – would they consider doing this?
- disability groups should also be considered and involved in the planning process;
- good public amenities are considered and a lot are already in place. Drew will find out how accessible public toilets are.

4. General Business

- David Kemp's major concern is the shortage of seating, resting and socialising areas throughout the area, and what strategy will be utilised to get well designed seats actually out in appropriate places. Shelter and seating, as set out on p.7 of the Walking and Cycling Strategy, needs to be more than just words. Seating needs to be comfortable as well. I note with concern, that four new seatings erected in recent months, have been beams without backs and are very uncomfortable and inappropriate for more than short term rests. The locations are – outside the Motueka Library, the children's play areas in Mapua village and at the Wharfe, and the Berryfields play area. Refer back to the Policy statement. It seems there is a direct disregard as to the comfort and practicalities of socialising areas seatings;
- Pam Coltman is also unhappy about the overgrown foliage on the footpaths around Wensley Road making it difficult for mobility scooters. She recently witnessed a police car stop someone on the road on their mobility scooter when they were unable to use the footpath due to the overgrown foliage.

5. Next A4A Forum scheduled for Friday 17 March 2023

- following meetings in June, September and December dates to be confirmed and sent out;
- there was a suggestion that future Forums could be recorded or made more user friendly for the blind attendees?

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

Meeting closed at 11.50am