
**MINUTES
A4A Forum
Accessibility for All
Friday March 15th 2019 – 10:00am
Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond**

Present: Cr Dana Wensley (Chair, Tasman District Council), Cr Dean McNamara, Cr Stuart Bryant, Jamie McPherson - Transportation Manager, Drew Bryant - Activity Planning Advisor – Transportation, Rhian Williams - Administration Officer – Governance, Mike Tasman-Jones - Community Partnership Co-ordinator, (Tasman District Council), Cr Paul Matheson, Rachael Large, (Nelson City Council) Jane Murray - Policy Advisor (NMDHB), Kim Howell, (Life Unlimited), Chris Allison, (Health Action Trust), Kate Malcom (NELSUS), Mike Stevens, Amanda Stevens, (Blind Citizens New Zealand – Nelson Branch) John Harwood, (Hearing Association), Simon Horrocks, Malcom Saunders, Matiu Rota (NMIT student)

Apologies: Megan Bell (TDC), Nicky McDonald (NCC), Pamela Coltman, Dwayne Fletcher (TDC), Kaye Halkett, Margaret Parfitt (NCC), Alec Louverdis (NCC)

- 1. Welcome and Apologies:** The Chair welcomed the forum and invited everyone to introduce themselves. The Forum agreed to accept all apologies given.
- 2. Chairs report:** The Chairs report was taken as read. Cr Wensley reminded the forum to email her with any comments on the missing hyperlinks for the Barrier Free checklist.

Mover: John Harwood **Seconder:** Mike Stephens

CARRIED

Chris Alison arrived 10:10am

- 3. Election of Chair:** Cr Wensley reminded the forum that this is a community led forum and anyone may be appointed as Chair. She called for nominations from those present. Amanda Stevens noted that a barrier exists for leadership and we need to build this level of leadership. Cr Wensley agreed and indicated she will discuss with the CEO what TDC can do in its capacity as providing administrative support to enable more community leadership.

Moved – Chris Allison moved the resolution that Cr Wensley be appointed as Chair

Seconded- Kate Malcolm

CARRIED

- 4. Paxsters:** The Chair welcomed Jamie McPherson to the meeting. Jamie stated he was at the forum to hear the views of those in attendance. Jamie presented that the evidence suggests to him that Paxsters are very well controlled when compared with other motorised users on the footpath. They will be introduced with careful monitoring and training, and based on the evidence will not be putting anyone at risk. Jamie presented the summary of the Hamilton study and offered the view that there was no evidence that the fears of being put at risk translated into changed behaviours for footpath users. Jamie recognised that when he read through the survey the focus of concerns were that there was confusion about “who gives way to who?” Jamie noted that the agreement with NZ post was that every single person has Right of Way to the Paxster and emphasized the importance to communicate this and make strong communication plans in advance of their operation.

The Forum Discussed the Hamilton study at length by doing a question and answer session with Jamie McPherson.

Footpath Priority:

Qu: What happens when a vehicle parks on the pavement which takes up the majority the pavement, and a Paxster 1.18 meters or so in width is driving past? There is no room for other pavement users, especially someone in a wheel chair or pushing a pram.

Ans: There are exclusion areas where the footpaths are too narrow and too steep which means that that area will not be safe or appropriate for the Paxsters use therefore they will not be used in those areas. NCC are currently going through the process of pinpointing these areas ready for their roll out.

Invitation by NZTA (NZ View of Footpath Regulations):

Qu: Has the invitation from Ministry of Transport and NZTA been extended to TDC?

Ans: TDC try to be involved with NZTA and Ministry of Transport (MOT) as much as possible by listening in and attending workshops but haven't yet been formally invited.

Ongoing Compliance Issues:

Qu: Is there going to be compliance with where the Paxsters are being used and what will happen if there is overgrown bushes/obstacles? Paxsters also need to make a sound when moving as they are so quiet this is a risk danger to the hearing and vision impaired. It was also noted that Paxsters reversing cameras have a blind spot that is very dangerous.

Ans: TDC deal with overhanging vegetation on an ongoing basis, if Paxters were to begin operating Jamie imagines a lot of reports will come through about this matter, for example: when the rubbish trucks increased in size TDC received a lot of reports regarding overhanging trees, these reports were dealt with very promptly. Jamie strongly agreed about having mandatory sound and the reversing camera and will look further into this.

Additional cost in relation to increased footpath maintenance demands:

Qu: The issue was raised as to how TDC will manage the high demands of footpaths maintenance if Paxsters are rolled out. It was noted that the Hamilton City Council has identified an additional 28,000 faults recently which has resulted in the budget for footpath renewals in their 10 year plan increasing from \$1.79m to \$4.55m. The question was raised whether this was related to Paxster use and identification of issues.

Ans: Jamie stated that discussion has been done with Marlborough regarding footpath maintenance. Marlborough have found that they did not find any increase in footpath maintenance when Paxsters were introduced. However Jamie is wanting to invest more money and time into footpaths regardless.

Submission to NZTA:

Qu: Is TDC or NCC putting in a submission to Ministry of Transport?

Ans: A decision has not yet been made but TDC will be attending a workshop on 26th March regarding this.

Concerns with having a registered motor vehicle on the footpath

Qu: Are the Paxsters a registered vehicle? And if they are then why are Paxsters not on the road?

Ans: Paxsters are registered vehicles but have been given dispensation to operate on footpaths as they are classified as “light goods” vehicles in New Zealand under section 2.13(1) of the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004.

Near misses reported: and questions with Hamilton study

One member mentioned how on holiday he has experienced a near miss with a Paxster and he has also witnessed Paxsters driving at speeds exceeding the limit of 10km. Another stated that for users like her “there a no near misses because we don’t see them, and when we don’t see them there is only too late.” How will the impact on footpath users like her be picked up if Paxsters are rollout out?

Change of footpath use:

It was noted that a small percentage of people responding to the Hamilton Survey did state they had changed their footpath use because of the Paxsters. The Hamilton study does not tell us whether this is the small percentage that is in the over 65+ age bracket who responded to the survey or not.

Crowding of footpaths:

One forum member spoke about the crowding of the footpaths. He found that when he was in a wheelchair other footpath users always gave the right of way, but when he is in his larger mobility scooter he feels embarrassed when someone who is pushing a pram with a baby is going on to the unstable grass or road to give way to him when he could have done that instead of the smooth run of the footpaths. He believes the Paxster drivers will have the same issues, Paxster will add to the negativity of mobility scooters, and mobility scooters could lose privilege to share the footpaths.

Issues with the Hamilton Study:

The relevance of the Hamilton survey to Tasman was questioned, and whether this was truly representative given that the majority of respondents were in the 25 – 50 year-old bracket. The issue of 'fit for purpose' was raised, in particular whether a footpath the same size as a Paxster be "fit for purpose". The main user of a footpath is pedestrians, if Paxsters were on the footpaths then pedestrians and other footpath users can not fit.

Complaints procedure:

Qu: Have conversations been done with NCC and with Hamilton Council regarding complaints, and if someone does have a complaint, who do they go to?

Ans: The conditions of use detail the process of how the complaints are received, lodged, and dealt with. Hamilton also hold monthly meetings to check in and discuss any issues that have been raised.

Qu: It was noted that the Paxsters have taken up a lot of time for both Engineering and A4A. Jamie was asked whether there has been an analysis of how much time the rollout and follow-up will take and how much further input from the A4A forum will be needed.

Ans: Jamie hasn't done a specific analysis, if the Paxsters were to roll out Jamie explained that it would just be business as usual for Engineering and there would not be a requirement from A4A to spend more time on this but there will certainly be an invitation for A4A, but that also depends how involved A4A wants to get.

5. Update on NCC Paxster Rollout

Margaret Parfitt and Alec Louverdis were both unavailable to give an update, this item will be moved in to the next meeting.

6. Active Transport Survey Update

Drew Bryant presented a slideshow to the committee

Discussion:

Drew will make this slideshow available for the A4A forum to look at and Rhian will circulate this out with the draft minutes. Drew was asked if the survey was a web based survey, if so then it

may have only covered a certain generation of people, and there will also be a lot of people without computer access. Drew Bryant responded saying it was a web based survey but he also spoke with community groups such as Mapua and Golden Bay. Drew deliberately targeted the areas that were not being represented as much on the survey.

The forum thanked Drew for putting together a great survey.

7. Accessibility of events

An email was sent out to the forum on the 14th March which included two links relating to event accessibility guidelines

Jane Murray spoke about the links that were sent out in relation to Accessibility of events.

Mike Tasman-Jones mentioned to the forum that there is similar sort of information available for this region as well and event organisers are encouraged to ensure that events are accessible to all users.

8. Correspondence

- **Chris Teo-Sherrel: Update of coalition acting to protect footpaths** – This letter has been printed for the forum to have a look at. Cr Wensley suggested that anyone interested in joining the coalition contact Chris Teo-Sherrel directly.
- **Letter of Support from A4A to Nelson Tasman Community Transport Trust.** – The letter was sent by Cr Wensley as Chair of A4A.
- **Response to A4A from Janine Dowding (CEO: Tasman)** – Cr Wensley said she had received a reply from Janine Dowding in response to the concerns expressed in Chris Allison's letter about council engagement with the forum (specifically in relation to the Paxsters). Cr Wensley is having a meeting with Janine Dowding after this A4A meeting to further the discussion and will report back next meeting.
- **Response to A4A from Pat Dougherty (CEO: Nelson)** – Dana is yet to hear back from Pat Dougherty to arrange a time to have a meeting.

Drew Bryant left at 12:00pm

9. General Business

"Footpaths of the Future" Group

Deputy Mayor (NCC) Paul Matheson stated that the Ministry of Transport are wanting to amend rules, once Cr Matheson has received the information from MOT he is interested in establishing a group and will report back to us.

Terms of Reference

A copy of the Terms of Reference which was attached to the agenda was discussed. Cr Wensley asked that if people had concerns they were to email her so she could collate these and bring this forward to the next meeting. Members raised some concern around the direction

of the forum. There was concern that “What is the point in having a forum where we raise issues but the Councils don’t respond to these issues?”

Snap Save Solve App

It was suggested that TDC utilise this APP to make it easier for residents to report faults / concerns to council. Cr Wensley will seek clarification on this and report back.

Queen Street signs and sandwich boards

It was noted by a member of the forum that Queen Street had a lot of non-compliant signs, signs that are inside parking areas/spaces, signs that are over height and also the use of sandwich boards still. Megan Bell and Drew were both unavailable to speak to this subject so Jamie McPherson responded, stating that the rules around sandwich boards are subject to the Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP) however there is a proposed review to consider changing the rules on these. One option is to consider banning them altogether. As this matter requires a formal change it relies on Councils Policy Planning team to action.

10. Confirmation of minutes from meeting of 23 Nov 2018

The minutes of the Accessibility for All Forum held on Friday 23rd November 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Mover: Paul Matheson

Seconder: Simon Horrocks

CARRIED

11. Action List – Previous Meetings actions and updates

Universal/Lifetime design

The Forum discussed this item and due to uncertainty about what it was in relation to and time constraints it was agreed to drop this item off the action list.

Parking areas and time limits – Richmond

Megan’s report on this is going to Full Council for decision at the 28th March and if approved they will be implemented as soon as possible.

Cr Wensley thanked everyone for their input into the meeting.

Meeting closed at 12:05pm