

ITEM 2. CYCLE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2007-2017**FILE NO: S046655****SUMMARY**

The Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017 is a 10 year vision to ensure that cycling is seen as an equal transport choice and contributes to the City's vision for a sustainable transport future. It is one of the plans associated with the City's Integrated Transport Strategy.

On 7 August 2006 Council resolved that the draft Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2006-2016 be placed on public exhibition until the end of September 2006. In accordance with that resolution, public consultation has been undertaken and the draft Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2006-2016 reviewed in response to those comments.

Seventy-nine (79) individual and three (3) organisational submissions were received. Main issues raised in the submissions included cyclist safety, barriers to cycling, facility design, implementation, and connections with other council areas and safe off-road routes.

In accordance with the Council Resolution of 7 August 2006, social research has been undertaken to identify how best to target infrastructure and social campaigns to achieve the desired increases in cycling in the City. This Resolution of Council and a summary of other actions required by the Resolution are shown at Attachment B.

Concurrent with the review of the public exhibition, a peer review was undertaken by Dr Chloe Mason, a leading mobility and transport planner.

A number of changes are proposed to the exhibited draft *Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2006-2016* as a consequence of the public exhibition, peer review and social research. This report identifies the proposed changes and recommends the approval of the *Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017*

These changes include the provision of more dedicated on-road bicycle facilities to create a bicycle network that a child can safely cycle on. This network will also be used to increase local pedestrian amenity, revision of the route identification to ensure consistency between the inner Sydney council bicycle plans, and increased, safe off-road paths along roads controlled by the Roads and Traffic Authority.

A meeting of the Cycle Strategy Steering Committee was held on 6 March 2007 and endorsed the changes to the strategy and recommended that the *Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017* be sent to Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council adopt the strategy, shown at **Attachment A** to the subject report, as the *City of Sydney Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017*;
- (B) Council receive and note the *Cycling Social Research Internet Survey report*, as shown in **Attachment D** to the subject report, and the *Cycling Social Research Focus Groups report*, as shown in **Attachment E** to the subject report;

- (C) Council re-establish the Cycle Strategy Steering Committee as the Cycle Strategy Implementation Advisory and Monitoring Committee to advise on the implementation and monitoring of the *Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017*. In addition to Councillor members, this committee shall include representatives of the Roads and Traffic Authority, Bicycle NSW, BikeEast and BikeSydney and other potential representatives. Non-Council representatives will be determined by the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Lord Mayor;
- (D) Council note that the Chief Executive Officer has authorised the appointment of a Cycling Transport Officer within the Transport Strategy Unit of Council to oversee and coordinate the traffic and transport requirements of the implementation and social actions associated with the *Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017* and to act as an internal advocate for cycling within the City; and
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to implement minor variations to the *City of Sydney Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017*, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, as required due to technical constraints or the like.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A:** *City of Sydney Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017* (to be circulated separately from the Agenda Paper).
- Attachment B:** Resolution of Council of August 7 2006 to exhibit the draft *Cycle Strategy and Master Plan 2006 – 2016*, and summary of actions taken in response to the Resolution.
- Attachment C:** Summary of submissions received in response to the *City of Sydney Cycle Strategy and Master Plan 2006 – 2016*.
- Attachment D:** Cycling Social Research Internet Survey report.
- Attachment E:** Cycling Social Research Focus Groups report.

BACKGROUND

1. Council resolved on 2 August 2004 to “approve the development of a comprehensive bicycle strategy for the expanded City of Sydney local government area to be implemented over 5 years, which will involve the identification of network priorities, financial implications, and implementation timeframes and to do so in partnership with the Roads and Traffic Authority.”
2. A Steering Committee was established to oversee the preparation of the strategy. The Steering Committee was chaired by the Lord Mayor. Members of the Committee included Councillor McInerney, Councillor Harris, Councillor Mallard, and representatives of the Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW (RTA), Bicycle New South Wales, and the area’s principal bicycle user groups BIKEast and BikeSYDNEY.
3. During the development of the draft strategy three stakeholder workshops were held. The first was held in June 2005 for community groups, bicycle groups and general interest Government organisations. The second workshop was held on 24 June 2005 involving key stakeholders including the RTA, State Transit Authority (STA) and Neighbouring Councils. A third workshop was held in October 2005 primarily involving Bicycle Groups to assist in developing the route network.
4. Many routes proposed in the draft strategy correspond to cycling routes identified in the Bike Plans of the former City of Sydney, South Sydney and Leichhardt Councils. The City has sought to advance key cycling projects in parallel with the development of the strategy, such as the Kent Street cycleway connecting the Pyrmont and Harbour Bridges, and key cycling routes such as Redfern Street, Oxford Street and Wilson Street.
5. The draft *Cycle Strategy and Master Plan 2006-2016* was placed on public exhibition in September 2006. In response to this exhibition, seventy-nine (79) individual and three (3) organisational submissions were received.
6. Social research was undertaken on behalf of the City by Envirometrics. This research examined the community in and around the City of Sydney and their attitudes to cycling. From this initial research, a focus group study was undertaken to examine what social drivers would result in the behavioural and attitudinal changes required to ensure the success of the Strategy.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

7. The *Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017* sets the strategic vision and provides detailed action plans to ensure that novices feel much safer riding a bicycle so that cycling can be embraced by a much wider segment of the community than is presently the case.
8. As a result of the eighty-two (82) submissions resulting from the public exhibition period, the peer review and social research, the *Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017* contains significant changes from the draft. These changes include:
 - (a) acknowledging that RTA funding for cycling facilities is inadequate and recommending an advocacy program to re-invest in bicycle facilities;
 - (b) developing options for on-road separated cycleways on Clarence Street Sydney, King Street Sydney and Castlereagh Street Sydney;

- (c) a change in status for the Kent Street proposal from a regional route to a local route due to its hilly nature and impracticality of connection to Druiitt Street and the Sydney Harbour Bridge;
 - (d) reorganising the route structure to reflect public concerns about the connections to other Councils and to reflect the New South Wales Government's *Metro Strategy*. This includes adding new routes connecting the Glebe Foreshore to Sydney Park via Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and Newtown and a route connecting Darlinghurst to Kings Cross;
 - (e) providing safe, separated on-road cycleways on local roads. The proposed standard design (as shown in **Attachment A**) will result in only minimal loss of parking and provide increased pedestrian amenity;
 - (f) providing shared paths on high difficulty RTA roads, except in areas of high pedestrian activity or when cyclists and pedestrians cannot be safely accommodated together;
 - (g) reviewing the timing of the implementation of the infrastructure within the draft Strategy. The social research has indicated that providing safe routes to local facilities is of more importance to potential cyclists than long inter-regional routes; and
 - (h) providing greater depth and clarity in the infrastructure and social actions identified in the draft Strategy. These revised Action Plans are included in Attachment A.
9. The Cycle Strategy Steering Committee was formed to provide input and oversee the development of the *Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017* and with the adoption of the Strategy has completed its function. It is proposed that this committee is re-established to provide advice on, and monitor the implementation of, the *Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017*.
10. Stakeholder liaison was undertaken during the revision process of the Strategy and key stakeholders including BIKEast, BikeSYDNEY, Bicycle NSW and the RTA.
11. The proposed changes in the *Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017* were unanimously endorsed at a meeting of the Cycle Strategy Steering Committee held on 6 March 2007.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. Council's 2006/07 capital works budget assigns \$220,000 to implementation of the strategy together with forward estimates of \$700,000 for 2007/08 and \$750,000 for 2008/09 and 2009/10. This is in addition to bicycle facilities delivered through the City's street improvement and maintenance programs.
13. The Cycling Transport Officer will be funded from the existing staff establishment.
14. The actions within the *Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017* are to be undertaken within the budgetary requirements of the capital works budget.
15. The RTA and the NSW Department of Planning both provide funding for cycleway facilities as part of their annual grants programs and the City can apply to access these funds.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

16. The RTA has responsibility for all classified roads under the Roads Act 1993. The Council of the City of Sydney has responsibility for all unclassified roads within the boundaries of the City of Sydney local government area under delegation from the RTA.
17. The Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act 1999 and the Transport Administration Act 1999 authorise the RTA to control traffic on public roads. Using this legislation the RTA has delegated its authority to the Council of the City of Sydney on some classified and non classified roads, with the exception of traffic signals and any junctions with roads under its jurisdiction.
18. The regulation of cycling is provided for in the Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) (Road Rules) Regulation 1999 and Australian Road Rules 1999.

CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES

19. The Strategy envisions a ten (10) year period during which implementation will be regularly reviewed.
20. Indicative timeframes for the development and implementation of the infrastructure and social actions have been included in the Strategy.

OPTIONS

21. It is recommended that the *Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017* is adopted.
22. Alternatively, Council may amend or put the revised draft Strategy on public exhibition, given that the draft has been significantly amended. This option is not recommended as it would delay the implementation of the Strategy. It should also be recognised that the revised draft accommodates the issues raised in the public submissions, community feedback obtained from social research, and the peer review. Moreover, issues that could arise can be addressed by way of minor variations in consultation with the Advisory Committee.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

23. The draft *City of Sydney Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2006-2016* was placed on public exhibition from Monday 4 September 2006 to Tuesday 26 September 2006. The public exhibition included:
 - (a) Public Notice in the Sydney Morning Herald;
 - (b) an update of the City's official website;
 - (c) notice boards and exhibition packages at the Central Business District One-Stop-Shop and Neighbourhood Service Centres; and
 - (d) a briefing to stakeholders (including bicycle user groups and Res-Net).

24. A total of eighty-two (82) submissions were received as result of the public exhibition of the draft *City of Sydney Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2006-2016*. Seventy nine (79) of these submissions came from individuals and three (3) from organisations. A summary of submissions and a response to the issues raised is shown at **Attachment C**.

VICTOR FRANCO

Deputy Director City, Community and Cultural Services

(Graham McCabe, Traffic Network Manager)