

Date: Thursday 4 July 2023	Time: 5.30 – 7pm	Venue: Lord Mayor's Reception Room, City Administration Centre
Meeting No: 14	Meeting Objective: To provide advice and guidance on the development of strategies, and identification of challenges and opportunities, in relation to built and natural facilities and systems within the LGA.	

1. Welcome

Councillor Winney-Baartz acknowledged that the meeting is being held on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi Peoples and paid respect to Elders past and present.

Joanne Rigby is leaving City of Newcastle (CN) after a lengthy career. Clint Thomson is joining CN as Executive Director City Infrastructure from Hunter Water. Cr Winney-Baartz thanked Joanne for her significant contribution to the City, delivering successive record capital works programs and being a mentor to many women in infrastructure.

1.1 Attendees:

Members

Cr Peta Winney-Baartz	Councillor Member (Chair)
Cr Deahanna Richardson	Councillor Member (Deputy Chair)
Cr Katrina Wark	Councillor Member
Emmanuel Genlot	General Manager, Keolis Downer
Robert Main	Business Program Manager Intelligent Networks, Hunter Water
John Merrell	Community Representative
Ken Saxby	Lead Community & Safety Partner, Transport for NSW

Guests

Patrick Burgess	Project Services Manager, City of Newcastle
Shannon Drewe	Project Director, Transport for NSW
Robert Dudgeon	Executive Manager Project Management Office, City of Newcastle
Rachel Howard	Committee Secretary (Minutes)
Matthew Murray	Chief of Staff to the Lord Mayor
Joanne Rigby	Executive Director City Infrastructure and Committee Facilitator
Ryan Tranter	Traffic and Transport Manager, City of Newcastle
Anna Zycki	Regional Director, Transport for NSW

Apologies

Corinne Thompson	Senior Manager, Community and Place Partner, Transport NSW
Clint Thomson	Executive Manager Customer Delivery, Hunter Water
Bryn Hernandez	Network Planning & Operations Council Management, Ausgrid

1.2 Declaration and Conflicts of Interest

1.2.1 Nil.

2. Minutes and Actions Arising

2.1 Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 7 February 2023 endorsed as circulated.

2.2 No outstanding actions.

3. Committee Effectiveness Survey

- 3.1 Joanne Rigby provided a summary of the survey results:
 - 3.1.1 70% of respondents rated the Committee to be extremely or very effective, with 30% rating somewhat effective.
 - 3.1.2 To improve Committee effectiveness going forward, respondents would like to receive more briefings on relevant CN strategies, projects and initiatives, and have more general discussions on topics of interest.
 - 3.1.3 Respondents noted strategic challenges facing the city include disaster mitigation, the energy transition, natural asset protection, EV charging, and urban planning development with integration of services.
- 3.2 The Committee reaffirmed its focus is to provide a stakeholder network and information sharing platform on infrastructure delivery in the LGA and wider region.
- 3.3 During the discussion members expressed an interest in exploring opportunities to attend briefings on areas of strategic interest with the Liveable, Community and Culture, and Strategy and Innovation Advisory committees.

4. Sports Infrastructure Working Party Update

- 4.1 Councillor Winney-Baartz provided a Sports Infrastructure Working Party update:
 - 4.1.1 Myer Park improvements have been completed under Stage 1 of the Adamstown Park Masterplan. The Gregson Park Masterplan will be placed on public exhibition shortly. The Waratah Masterplan will follow.
 - 4.1.2 Major redevelopments at Passmore and Darling Street Oval are underway. These projects will provide inclusive amenities for all users, with significant improvements for female teams.
 - 4.1.3 The \$1.2 million amenities upgrade at Lugar Park is complete.
 - 4.1.4 Damage caused to sportsgrounds by vandalism, particularly following rain events, is a costly problem to fix and takes funds away from other prioritised works. A community awareness campaign to highlight this issue is being explored and conversations are continuing with the NSW Police.

5. Newcastle Inner City Bypass (Rankin Park to Jesmond) and Hexham Straight

- 5.1 Shannon Drewe provided an overview of the Hexham Straight Widening project, including the benefits, risks and key achievements:
 - 5.1.1 The Australian and NSW Governments are investing in the upgrade of the section of Maitland Road known as Hexham Straight, between the Newcastle Inner City Bypass and Hexham Bridge, to improve safety and traffic flow. 50,000 motorists use the road every day.

- 5.1.2 Transport for NSW (TfNSW) has formed an Alliance with Georgiou Group Pty Ltd, Daracon Contractors Pty Ltd and SMEC Australia Pty Ltd to design and build the project. The Alliance is starting work on the widening early July 2023.
- 5.1.3 Establishment activities are ongoing. The next three months will see; site compounds set up; environmental protection, mitigation and controls established; fencing and safety barriers installed; long-term traffic controls on Maitland Road; a temporary bridge platform with construction access at Ironbark Creek; and tree clearing along the project alignment.
- 5.1.4 Community updates can be found on the TfNSW [website](#).
- 5.2 During the discussion it was noted that:
- 5.2.1 The Committee raised questions related to improved cyclist and pedestrian connectivity. TfNSW provided an overview of the areas within the project footprint where off road paths will be located. An updated project design will be available in [August Community Update](#). Access will be maintained for cyclists and pedestrians in both directions during construction.
- 5.2.2 Questions were raised around the area near the Oak factory at the Western end of the project which requires cyclists to use the left lane, and whether any interim measures could be put in place. TfNSW noted that during construction the area must remain as three northbound travel lanes due to traffic volumes, noting that the project includes significant improvements in this area. TfNSW are working to program these works to occur as early as possible.
- 5.3 Shannon Drewe provided an overview of the current status of the Rankin Park to Jesmond - Newcastle Inner City Bypass project:
- 5.3.1 The three month look ahead will see; utility relocation works at the northern interchange behind John Hunter Hospital (JHH); installation of main cross-embankment stormwater culverts; bulk earthworks; mine void grouting; piling and pier construction for bridges; and installation of permanent boundary fencing along the perimeter of the site.
- 5.3.2 Preparation for the earthworks and structures are significant. All environmental site controls are in place for stormwater management, with clean water diversions in place for all catchments. Piling work platforms have been prepared for bridges near the Jesmond roundabout, with preparation for southern interchange retaining walls underway.
- 5.3.3 Changes to site access at the southern and northern interchange have been implemented.
- 5.3.4 The project's [interactive construction portal](#) contains a wealth of information. 3,000 people have visited the site so far. TfNSW encourage stakeholders to share the portal with their networks.
- 5.4 During the discussion it was noted that:
- 5.4.1 The Committee discussed the interface with JHH. The construction portal includes a fly through of the design with the JHH interchange shown at 00:31 to 00:46.

- 5.4.2 CN requested an update on the Jesmond shared path and the diversion which included a proposal to utilise a tunnel out of standard width and a requirement to dismount which could not be supported by CN. TfNSW confirmed that this proposal had not been approved by the project's Private Verifier due to non-compliance to standards.

6 Flood Mapping

- 6.1 Joanne Rigby advised that the flood mapping update would be deferred to a future meeting with a view to aligning this with the consultation period.

7 Bathers Way - King Edward Park Concept Design

- 7.1 Luke Jones provided a project overview:
- 7.1.2 The project scope for the four-metre shared path (with lighting) includes: replacement of the toilet amenity block; new shade shelters and viewing platforms; alignment of activity nodes with accessible routes; Aboriginal artwork; and renewing infrastructure (roads, retaining walls, footpaths, stormwater) along the route.
- 7.1.2 The project will manage several key challenges in its delivery including State Heritage Listing considerations, site topography, parking adjustments and mitigating impact to Norfolk Island Pines.
- 7.1.3 A community reference group meeting will be held in the coming months, with detailed design scheduled to occur in 2024, following public exhibition and Council adoption of the concept design.

8 Stakeholder Updates

- 8.1 TfNSW - Ken Saxby provided an update:
- 8.1.1 M1 extension contracts have been awarded to John Holland Gamuda Australia Joint Venture as the successful contractors for the southern contract, which is a 10km section that extends from Black Hill to Tomago, and Seymour Whyte Construction for the northern contract which is a five kilometre section that bypasses Heatherbrae. Early works are underway including archaeological salvage in collaboration with Aboriginal stakeholders, scoping of at-residence noise treatments, and establishment of site compounds. Major construction is expected to start in late 2023 and should be completed in 2028.
- 8.1.2 A meeting was held on 5 June 2023 between CN and TfNSW on the Richmond Vale Rail Trail (RVRT) project. TfNSW have agreed to move the culvert lengthening on Purgatory Creek to the southern side of the Aurizon access to better facilitate the future RVRT. The project continues to refine the connections from the motorway to the Aurizon access/future RVRT as well as the connection from the Aurizon Access to the New England Hwy southbound carriageway.
- 8.1.3 The Lower Hunter Freight corridor is confirmed. Council will receive a briefing on this project in the near future.

- 8.2 Hunter Water - Rob Main provided an update:
- 8.2.1 Stage 3 community engagement for the IPART pricing submission is being rolled out, inviting customer and community deliberation on the topics that have been investigated in phase 1 and valued in stage 2.
 - 8.2.2 The Burwood Beach Wastewater Treatment Works is a significant project.
 - 8.2.3 Current focus area is pipe burst programs where high pressure mains are located in close proximity to residents. The goal is to minimise flooding impact to customers.
 - 8.2.4 Noted that information in relation to Wallsend channel widening may be available in the coming weeks.
- 8.3 Keolis Downer - Emmanuel Genlot provided an update:
- 8.3.1 Actively working on recruitment due to staff shortages. 118 new staff members have been recruited so far. In July it is forecast that the headcount number will reach that needed to safely deliver all services. No school services were cancelled in the last 12 months despite the shortage.
 - 8.3.2 The service review is underway. Options for changes will be presented to TfNSW. If endorsed these will be shared with CN.
 - 8.3.3 Working to accelerate energy transition projects, including working with the Port of Newcastle supporting the Clean Energy Precinct and upgrading the bus depot to enable EV.
 - 8.3.4 A new bus taskforce will hold its first meeting in July. The purpose is to explore potential improvements, including timing and routes. Community and stakeholder feedback will be considered and proposals developed for TfNSW consideration.
- 8.4 Ausgid - Bryn Hernandez provided apologies to the Committee.
- 8.5 CN Cycleways - Ryan Tranter provided an update:
- 8.5.1 Community consultation will shortly commence on traffic changes to accommodate a signalised midblock crossing for the section of Maud Street between Prince Street and Vera Street.
 - 8.5.2 Construction of traffic control signals is nearing completion at Chinchin Street Islington. This is a key connection to Islington Public School and the TAFE.
 - 8.5.3 William Street and Blue Gum Road is an important shared connection for Jesmond local centre. This is scheduled for public exhibition in 2023.
 - 8.5.4 The Hunter Street Cycleway Stage 2 designs are progressing and are scheduled for public exhibition in the coming weeks. The Stewart Avenue and Tudor Street intersections will be key.
 - 8.5.5 The Committee noted that a map highlighting the City's cycleway network would be a useful tourism resource.

- 8.5.6 The Committee discussed the metrics utilised to measure cycleways success. CN is looking into this space to better track vehicle movements around the city to improve our understanding of what is happening on the network.

9. General Business

- 9.1 Nil.

10. Closing

- 10.1 Next meeting: 5.30pm, Tuesday 4 October 2023
Lord Mayor's Reception Room, City Administration Centre