

Massbug - Minutes

07 June 2006

Present Geoff
John C
Alan R
Jonathon
Alan
Brenda
Robert
Ian
Fiona
Gilbert

Apologies Paul B

LOCAL ISSUES

1/ Contra Flow – Wilson St

Brenda: As a passenger in a taxi driving east along Wilson St in the rain after dark it was impossible to see the contra flow lane.

Fiona: Clover Moore has instructed that the white dividing line be put in ASAP. And that some sort of raised lane marker also be used the choice being Rumble Strips or Raised Reflective Pavement Markers (RRPMs) or "Cat Eyes".

Consensus: Preference for 1: Rumble Strips, 2: RRPMs.

Action – Fiona to confer with Dick van den Dool the safest option and to relay to Clover our preference.

Ian: Ashfield Council has been reported making an ambit claim to the RTA to have the speed on local roads reduced to 30kph, (mostly to draw attention to the fact that safety needs to be uppermost, and that cars have too high a priority, etc). Could something of the sort be done for Wilson St. How would it be policed.

John: Line marking for Little Eveleigh St with Wilson St.

Fiona: Dominick was harrassed on Wilson St. Fiona blocked the road and approached the driver to inform them of the road rules. They were most apologetic and courteous afterwards which reinforces the need for driver education.

Ian: Can we target the offending drivers or demographic regarding road rules.

Allan: Observed half of riders on contra flow do not have lights. Could Eveready be approached to provide lights with the assurance of return sales via batteries.

Brenda: Bike NSW could be approached to make this a promotional event. Possibly linked with one of the Big Rides or Sydney Cycling events.

Action – Brenda to follow up with BNSW

2/ Thefts – Bike Parking

Johnathan: Bike was locked in the rack at Bay St entrance to Broadway shopping mall. Had light stolen. Other bikes were obviously tampered with. The rack is not properly secured and locked bikes can be removed by thieves.

John: The rack at Marrickville Metro is bolt together (and not properly secured).

Gilbert: There are inverted U-Rail parking bays inside the covered car park at Broadway most within direct sight of the cashiers booth. The booth has a notice about video surveillance.

Ian: There are no CCTVs on the Bay St rack.

Action: Johnathan has emailed Centre Management. (Requires further education of Shopping Centre managements Sydney wide, as they often install non-compliant parking racks, etc.)

3/ Liberty Street – root damage

Allan: Trees are damaging the path especially evident during rain storms.

4/ Illawarra Road – lane marking etc

Ian: Illawarra Rd south of Marrickville Rd the lane marking is ... and there are improper RRPMs. (please amend as necessary).

5/ Alice Street reflectors

John: Alice St reflectors have not been removed. N.B. Hazard to cycling.

CORRESPONDENCE

6/ Letter to John Watkins re: Lawson St Bridge at Redfern Station

John: Following from the last meeting a letter was drafted to be sent to John Watkins with a copy to Clover Moore as the responsible state member of parliament.

Action – John to forward letter(s)

7/ Marrickville Festival Stall

John: Has been contacted by Kendal re: stall for this years festival.

Action – John to contact Kendal to book stall with CC to Kathy at RSO (M.C. Road Safety Office)

8/ Re: barriers Lawson St rail overpass .

Robert: Communications (RTA/Railcorp? - amend as necessary) have revealed the design of the barriers is to prevent motor vehicles from crashing through the current brick wall on the rail overpass. It was deemed due to the age and usage the current brick construction was not sufficiently strong to resist penetration or collapse. (It is presumably a bonus to local area policing and a coincidence that they act like a series of cattle crushes.)

9/ Police Parking

Fiona: A follow up letter from the head of area Inspector Ken Finch

MARRICKVILLE COUNCIL NEWS

10/ Bike Plan Workshop

John: (Fiona, John, Liz, Paul, Gilbert from Massbug – Kendal, K.C, ..., ..., Warren Solomon – please amend as necessary) Liz aired Bruce's concerns outlined at the last meeting and the topic of an extraordinary meeting at the Campbell residence, that the engineering planning had been conducted separate to the social planning. Bruce had requested a moratorium on action by M.C. with the establishment of something like a working group of experts to fit the yet to be released Social Plan to the Engineering Plan. Warren Solomon addressed these and other concerns raised at the workshop.

The rolling out of the current plan should not be delayed. Social objectives were constantly fed between Kendal and Warren. The plan Warren is advocating is mostly for the identification of routes and treatment of intersections to facilitate cycling flow. This has been proven in London and other places to be the most cost effective method.

The time line is such that no engineering work will commence for probably one year leaving ample time for consultation.

The attendees of the meeting were given the invitation to approach Warren directly with specific or general concerns. He is anxious however to begin the planning of treatments for individual intersections. And contrary to Bruce's statement *this project* is his ongoing concern at present.

Some routes have been included as desirable outcomes, and have been identified to prevent their being developed or impinged upon for other purposes.

Fiona: The consensus at the meeting was strongly supportive of keeping the process moving forwards.

[Group discussion followed on some of the possible problems that might occur if the project was seen to be the cause of, or result of, rifts within massbug or the cycling community. It was determined that efforts should be made to accommodate dissenting opinions whilst at the same time supporting the ongoing implementation]

Action: John to draft a letter of support and thanks for Marrickville Council's for the process, addressed to the General Manager.

12/ Marrickville Council's Annual Budget

Fiona: Closing date for submissions was 05 June. Unfortunately due to time constraints and the demands of the M.C. cycle planning no submission was made on behalf of massbug. There is however already \$390,000 allocated in this years budget which by anyone's reckoning is a mighty effort on behalf of cycling.

Action – John to draft a letter of thanks to M.C. for their budget allocation.

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SYDNEY (CoS) NEWS

13/ ...

Allan: (Please amend as necessary)

14/ Williams Street

Fiona: Following from the media release that the NSW government might roll back the street closures and especially remove the bike lanes in William St, Kings Cross Road, and Craigend St a flurry of activity has ensued. There are many complicating issues surrounding the CCT including the supposedly rock solid legally binding agreements such as the "Conditions of Consent". Breaching these and other agreements would set a dangerous precedent for other planned cycle routes such as Kent St etc. It would also undermine the credibility of the planning and consultation process.

Allan Rees: Previously used the footpath on Williams St.

Fiona: The State Opposition (Coalition) has stated it will undo all road closures and remove the cycle lanes, etc., *when* it wins office.

All: general discussion on the impact upon cycling infrastructure especially:

Fiona: reiteration of "BikePlan2010 promised that all new road infrastructure projects would include provision for cycling. The Minister for Planning's Approval Conditions for the Cross City Tunnel project included a requirement for bike lanes on William Street. Action for Air (1998) promised to triple cycling levels. BikePlan2010 also promised \$25 million per annum for ten years for cycling infrastructure - that dropped to \$15 million and is now just \$5 million per annum. Compare that with the \$3.3 billion road budget!" (per email)

Andrew Dodds (BikeSydney) has formulated a media release to be posted to BNSW members Thursday 08 June.

Call for deputations to approach State Members of Parliament.

Action – Ian and Gilbert to request meeting with Linda Burney; John, Fiona and Robert to meet with Carmel Tebbutt.

15/ Wilson St

Already discussed

16/ Lawson St

Already discussed

17/ Kent St

Submission have only just closed. The normal process will be followed with a report to Council, etc.

ADMINISTRATION

18/ T-Shirts

Fiona: Provided samples of T-Shirts per her printer. No firm quote given on pricing but is expected to be very reasonable (dirt cheap).

Brenda: Need to contact Natalie re: account. Still receiving orders from membership mail out (obviously some demand).

All: Style of shirt Bonds Raglan Crew, red body black sleeves. Black logo. Order 50, various sizes. Price TBA (suggest \$20)

Gilbert: From experience Bonds Ts of this kind – colours will shrink by 1-2 sizes so order larger sizes. White of same style does not shrink.

Action – Fiona to give go ahead for screen

John: re Account details – netbank can provide read only facility.

19/ Stickers

Fiona: Fresh batch of red on white “one less car” stickers available.

RIDES AND EVENTS

20/ Sustainability Ride

Gilbert: A good turnout, 15 total, some caught up with/joined us at Addison Road. Ride went well, no-one dropped off. Time was good.

Robert: Favourable feedback from some riders – regards informational and comfortable riding pace. Themed rides attract a wider audience even non-riders, returning riders, occasional riders.

John: Surprised at turnout when they arrived at BioFuel station. Expressed thanks to Gilbert for organising the ride.

Gilbert: We could advertise these as “interpretive rides” (similar to Riverlife).

21/ Biatholon

Brenda: Good turnout for a cold day, 10 riders. Bowls was a hit.

Geoff: Missed the start by 5 minutes.

Discussion on how best to let late riders catch up – map on website, turning Brenda's mobile phone *on*, etc.

Robert: Many riders were returning to riding. Good distance and relaxed pace.

Brenda: Outside broadcast by James O’Laughlin ABC702 on 21 June (Solstice) from the Bowling Club. Part of a community push. Teams to play off. John K and Brenda suggested fielding a team dressed in cycle gear.

Action – Gilbert to put notice on Website

22/ Williams St

Fiona: Critical Mass is planning an extraordinary ride for this Friday. Meet at 5:30 Archibald Fountain Hyde Park.

Action – Gilbert to put notice on Website.

23/ Glass Ride

Gilbert: response to Brenda's email.

Brenda: We need to determine the message re: the path cleaning ride if we want to attract media attention. Who is the audience, what are we saying, etc

Action – Gilbert to confer with Brenda.

24/ City lights / Solstice Riders

Gilbert: Following prompts from BikeSydney and John K have outlined a possible route for Friday night 23 of June. Not the actual solstice but more amenable to riding. Begin 9:00 pm Newtown Neighbourhood centre and circle south to Airport, Moore Park, Bradfield Highway (Quay) Balmain, Iron Cove, Newtown. Finish about 1:00 am. Devising festoon lanterns, theme will be (optional) fancy dress, either the bike or rider. A festive/party event. Paced and laced accordingly.

25/ Calendars

Gilbert: Mick Mazza had requested Massbug Calendars for his shop.

Brenda: Has delivered per request. Time to circulate another batch of Calendars.

26/ Airport Development

Allan Rees: Circulated "first phase of Sydney Airport's Ground Travel Plan" to list. Included stats for vehicle trips to airport included public transport and walking but neglected entirely bicycles, by design or neglect.

Johnathan: Employed at Customs House at Airport and outlined the parking difficulties there at present. Management is attempting to have Customs relocated to reclaim space and parking.

Fiona: Requested Johnathan approach Union – who will have appropriate policy – to encourage workers who live within active transport distance to cycle or car pool so space is available to workers travelling from further afield.

Allan Rees: The Travel Plan has extra space incorporating 3000 extra parks, four buses, one bus stop, etc.

Gilbert: Requested Johnathan obtain photos of cyclists – in context – to prove need for acknowledgement in planning.

Johnathan: Explained many cycle though numbers decrease in winter.

27/ Website and Massblog

Gilbert: Proceeding with upgrading website.

Brenda and John: requested access to blog.