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40km/h Speed Limit
City of Sydney
Road Safety Officer
GPO Box 1591
Sydney NSW 2001

4th December 2004

Re: Submission on proposed 40km/h speed limit for Central Sydney

Marrickville-South Sydney Bicycle Group strongly supports Council's proposal of a 40km/h speed limit for Central Sydney. We agree that the introduction of the lower speed limit, coupled with enforcement, will bring significant improvements in safety and amenity for people cycling and walking in Central Sydney.

Marrickville-South Sydney Bicycle Group (MASSBUG) has a strong interest in this improvement by the City of Sydney Council. Many of our members commute to the city by bike, some members live in the City of Sydney Council area and MASSBUG was deeply involved in the development of the South Sydney Bike Plan.

The text of the proposal refers to some streets other than the proposed area of change as already being 40km/h such as the Rocks, Ultimo, Surry Hills and East Sydney, but the map doesn't indicate how much of the surrounding area will miss out on the lower speed. MASSBUG encourages Council to apply the improvement to more streets and areas including:

- William St all the way to Kings Cross, consistent with the CCT project aims;
- areas around Darling Harbour including Harbour Street & Pier St;
- any neighbourhood areas of Surry Hills, Ultimo and East Sydney which are left out;
- Central Station surrounds, including Chalmers St & Devonshire St (very high pedestrian volumes);
- shopping strips outside Central Sydney but with high pedestrian activity, including King St Newtown, Erskineville Village and Redfern St;
- other train station surrounds including Erskineville, Macdonaldtown and Redfern.

We have a particular request with regard to Wilson St in Newtown. Council's plan for a contra-flow bike lane on the section between Burren St and Erskineville Rd includes reducing the speed limit to 40km/h. However, it seems likely that the RTA will reject this request as it doesn't fit with the "high pedestrian activity" criteria. We believe it would be beneficial to propose that this section of Wilson St be included as part of the surrounds of Macdonaldtown Station which should be 40km/h. The streets on the southern side of the Macdonaldtown Station already have a 40km/h local traffic zone. Yet from the station up Burren and Wilson towards King St is a major pedestrian traffic route. We believe there is a strong case for making this whole section 40km/h.

Marrickville-South Sydney Bicycle Group (MASSBUG)

Marrickville-South Sydney Bicycle Group is a local bicycle user group, established in 1991, affiliated with Bicycle New South Wales. We work with Marrickville Council and state government bodies (e.g. RTA & Area Health Services) for the improvement of cycling infrastructure, urban amenity, community health and safety. We also provide information, advice and rides for members of the local community and local schools.

Our vision is for a safe, healthy, vibrant community whose planning and infrastructure provide for greater share of transport by walking and cycling, in order that the personal, community & environmental benefits of more sustainable transport can be realised. We also regard public transport services as essential.

Also, bicycle groups are currently negotiating with the RTA to attempt to extend the "high pedestrian activity" criteria to include high levels of bicycle activity. The bicycle movement believes that there is a need to apply affirmative action and apply the policy to streets with the *potential* for high pedestrian or cycling activity, especially where completion of networks and/or landuse urban design changes are underway. We would like the City of Sydney to propose that the entire length of Wilson St, Newtown (known as "the bicycle highway of the Inner West"), be designated 40km/h. At times, bicycle traffic volumes on Wilson St are higher than motor traffic volumes making it an ideal candidate for a test case for "high bicycle activity".

Council is to be highly commended for this progressive proposal which benefits the two road user groups whose needs are all too often sidelined. We believe it will contribute to a more attractive city environment. We do encourage Council to extend the 40km/h to other deserving areas as described above, either now or in the near future.

Congratulations to Council staff and Councillors responsible.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Campbell
Marrickville-South Sydney Bicycle Group