

Canterbury Active Transport Forum

Meeting minutes

Thursday 23rd August 2007

Facilitators: Nadine Milmine, Land Transport NZ
Rose Dovey, Environment Canterbury
Minute Taker: Nick Bryan, Ministry of Transport

1. **Present: Refer to attached attendance list.**
2. **Apologies: Refer to attached attendance list.**

3. **Welcome and Ice-breaker**

Nadine Milmine welcomed attendees to the meeting and congratulated the members of the forum that presented an overview of the forum to the Regional Land Transport Committee.

Rose Dovey introduced herself to the committee. Rose has been appointed as a Transport Planner at Environment Canterbury. She was previously a Development Officer for Cycling Scotland where she worked on an EU funded project on intermodality and interchanges, cycle training programmes and assisted with the development of cycle strategies and the delivery of a programme 'Making Cycling Mainstream'.

Nadine then gave a recap of the last forum and noted that Fiona Whero had circulated a hand over report. It was requested that all members read the report and provide any feedback on the recommendations to Rose.

4. **Presentations: (Refer to forum information pack for presentation material covered)**

Laurie McCallum – Energy, Transport and Built Environment Policy Manager, Environment Canterbury

Laurie provided an overview of the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy (UDS). He explained that the project is a partnership approach between Christchurch City Council, Selwyn and Waimakariri District Councils, Environment Canterbury and Transit NZ, with strong political support. He outlined the key growth issues the strategy aims to address, options analysis and consultation processes. A very high number of submissions were received on the options consultation, which fortified political conviction to proceed. The submissions sought a more compact urban form. The level of political unity has partly been driven by a message from central government that transport funding will only be forthcoming if the region is united and actively managing growth issues. The UDS is a non-statutory document so has been developed in tandem with supporting changes to the Regional Policy Statement (RPS). The UDS will also feed into the Regional Land Transport Strategy and LTCCPs and the development of outline development plans for new subdivisions.

The issue of the UDS only including a suggested recreational cycle network and not a utility network was raised. Laurie indicated this was due to the limited time to develop the strategy and that further work was required to fill in many of the gaps.

Laurie suggested that the key elements for submission on the RPS to support active transport would be to support the use of outline development plans and encourage increased consideration for active modes.

Joy Kingsbury-Aiken – Schools Coordinator, Christchurch City Council & **Rosemary Walton** – School Travel Plan Facilitator at Westburn School

Joy outlined a ten step process for developing a school travel plan (STP). Joy noted the importance of including the local council in case infrastructure issues need to be addressed, but that expectations around what could be achieved in the way of infrastructure investment had to be managed in the budgeting of the plan. The importance of bringing together a range of agencies interested in pupil travel was also noted. These agencies will often have different goals but are often delivering similar programmes with the children. It is important to make sure that efforts are coordinated. STPs should only contain actions that the partners are willing and able to implement.

So far three schools in Christchurch have a STP. They have all employed a part time travel plan champion and this has been essential to move from planning and ensure successful implementation.

Rosemary then outlined that she had become involved from PTA meetings where discussions around the safety of a crossing outside the school was raised, with the general feeling that it was 'an accident waiting to happen'. Rosemary has been involved throughout the process. She noted the difference between the children's desire to walk or cycle to school and attitudes of parents that resulted in 57% of children being driven to school. The importance of providing a resource to maintain interest in the plan and the limited ability for teaching staff to provide the time required were raised as key points. Also maintaining interest among the children required the backing of parents and teachers.

Axel Wilke – Director, ViaStrada

Axel reported on his key thoughts that came out of the Velocity conference he attended in Munich. He focused on two key aspects that came out of the conference, 30km/h speed limits and the use of cycle paths vs cycle lanes.

Axel noted that 30km/h speed limit in residential and central city areas had been increasing in use since the 1980s in Europe, particularly Germany. He noted the significant safety benefits for active transport users and that currently traffic speed laws in New Zealand make it very difficult to implement similar measures here. He suggested that if a shift to slower speed limits were to be phased in through the road renewal process it would take 80 years to convert residential streets to a slower speed limit.

Axel reported on a study that looked at the use of cycle paths and cycle lane in Copenhagen, Denmark. A cycle lane is a cycle facility marked on the road carriageway and a cycle path is a segregated cycle lane. The results of using the two types of facility varied significantly, while cycle lanes are safer for cyclists as they do not create difficulties at intersections, the application of cycle paths led to a significant mode shift. Greater use of paths is limited in New Zealand due to the give way rules, making road crossings difficult.

Axel also noted from the conference the importance of marketing and the lack of emphasis it is given and the importance of providing good quality, secure and free cycle parking.

Penny Wilson – Health Promoter, Community and Public Health

Penny provided an overview of community cycling schemes. The schemes focused on improving the affordability and availability of bikes through the green bike concept. Green bike projects aim to provide bikes to own or hire cheaply and conveniently. There are generally 2 types, making old bikes roadworthy or providing a new bike fleet available to the general public. Penny outlined the key elements of a number of New Zealand based and international schemes, which varied in terms of approach and levels of success. Penny noted the potential for providing such schemes through a variety of agencies and funding streams given the community development aspects of the schemes.

5. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted with one amendment on page 2:

Comments from Carina Duke referred to the height of lettering on signs. This should have read the height of signs.

Moved: Glen Koorey

Seconded: Axel Wilke

Carried

6. Matters arising

Nadine Milmine gave an update on efforts to introduce a trial of bike racks on buses in Christchurch. Environment Canterbury have made a case to Land Transport NZ. However, Land Transport NZ is still working to approve the rule exemptions required to trial the racks that were fitted to buses in May. Nadine will update the forum on progress at the next meeting.

Nadine Milmine reported to the forum that she had enquired about why Land Transport NZ did not fund footpath maintenance. She reported that it is not funded because the total funding pool is limited and spending money on footpath maintenance would mean that funding in other areas would miss out.

The forum members resolved to suggest to the Canterbury Active Transport Working

Group that they write to the board of Land Transport NZ advocating for funding for the maintenance of footpaths.

7. Moved: Glen Koorey

Seconded: Axel Wilke

Abstained: Nadine Milmine, Nick Bryan

Carried

Andrew Macbeth volunteered to coordinate the collection of information to support this proposal to provide to Environment Canterbury to inform the Canterbury Active Transport Working Group.

8. Open mike

Glen Koorey:

* Cycling conference on the 1/2 November, see www.can.org.nz/events/conf2007/

* The cycle friendly awards will be presented at the conference, nominations are open see www.can.org.nz/awards/

* A cycle training course will precede the conference.

* The CAN do meeting will follow the conference.

* The South West Christchurch Area Plan is out for consultation.

Andrew Macbeth

* Training course on planning for walking/cycling is being run next week.

Michael Ferigo

* City council is also running a 1 day training course on 13 September, titled fundamentals of cycling with a focus on design. This has been organised for staff but there may be a possibility for others to attend if spaces are available. Contact Michael if interested.

Lee Wright

* Selwyn District Council has advertised for a part time school travel plan coordinator. If any members know someone who might be interested please direct them to the Council.

Penny Wilson

* Push Play Day is Friday 2 November. Please let Penny know if any active transport promotions are planned so they can be dovetailed and impact maximised.

Nadine Milmine

* Active Canterbury is a regional brand that has been developed collaboratively, led by the health sector. The website www.activecanterbury.org.nz can be used by other providers to list events.

9. Next meeting

Date: 30 October 2007

Time: 12.30pm-1pm (lunch); 1.00pm to 3.30pm (forum)

Venue: Canterbury Chambers

Presenter: Bob Chauncey