

The Australian Bicycle Council (ABC) held its 47th meeting in Sydney on Thursday 23rd October 2014. The meeting was chaired by Craig Moran (Austroads Network Program Manager) and the secretariat was Tony Arnold.

Guest Presentations

Bicycle NSW

Sophie Bartho (Communications Director) and Jon Leighton (President) provided an update on the work done by Bicycle NSW and on the case for encouraging cycling. The presentation covered some of the programs run by Bicycle NSW such as the Spring Cycle, Gear Up Girl, Discovery Rides and Helmet Design Competition. The presentation also explored policy areas around productivity, health, safety, education, end of trip facilities and pathways to schools.

City of Sydney

Fiona Campbell (Manager Cycling Strategy) provided an update on the work done by the City of Sydney. The work includes engaging the community through events such as the Sydney Rides Festival, behaviour change activities, cycling courses and workplace programs. Progress was reported on cycling numbers which have grown by an average of 132% across the city in four years. Fiona also highlighted the Inner Sydney Regional Bicycle Plan which provides a strategic plan across 15 inner Sydney local government areas. The strategy has been independently assessed in terms of demand and associated economic benefits and costs. The strategy was found to return \$3.88 for every \$1 spent on the implementation. The project has been included on the National Infrastructure Priority List.

NSW Centre for Road Safety

Marg Prendergast (General Manager) provided statistical information on cycling safety and described the actions that the NSW Centre for Road Safety is undertaking to help to make cycling safer. The statistical information included breakdowns of cyclist injury data across location type, speed limits, road classification, season, road user movement, helmet use, injury diagnosis and length of hospital admission. The presentation also covered the NSW Cycling Safety Action Plan and the "It's a Two Way Street" Campaign.

NSW Bureau of Transport Statistics

Sherri Fields (Principal Manager Research & Planning) provided a brief overview of how various data sources inform cycling policy in NSW. The presentation looked at the Sydney Cycling Survey, Household Travel Survey, permanent bicycle counters, Journey to Work data and bespoke travel surveys.

Transport for NSW

Simon Hunter (A/General Manager, Land Use and Integrated Transport Planning) provided an overview of strategies that are in-place to deliver on the objectives of the National Cycling Strategy. These include the NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan, Sydney's Cycling Future and the Sydney City Centre Access Strategy.

Transport for NSW – Communications

Tina Gallagher (Principal Manager, Campaigns and Communications) presented how Transport for NSW is positioning cycling as a viable mode of transport to support cycling growth targets. Tina outlined how connectivity, separation, safe behaviour, support facilities and the benefits of cycling all play a role in people's choice to ride a bicycle.

National Cycling Strategy – Implementation Reports

The 2013 Implementation Report has been publicly released after being submitted to TISOC and the Transport and Infrastructure Council. Preparations are underway to collect data for the 2014 report. The ABC is keen to collect injury data, but at the moment there is some concern about the consistency and quality of the data across all jurisdictions. Queensland is undertaking an examination of the issues surrounding the collection, management and reporting of cycling injury and incident data and will keep the ABC updated with progress.

National Cycling Participation Survey

The ABC reviewed the methodology used for the 2013 survey and suggested some additions for the 2014 survey. The main addition was to include a question that provides more detail about the time/distance of riding done for both transport and recreation.

National Framework for Communications

In advance of the meeting, the secretariat provided the ABC with examples of encouragement and safety message campaigns that have been used both in Australia and internationally. The ABC acknowledged that the design and delivery of these sorts of programs is not always in the hands of the ABC members and that we should look to involve communications professionals who work on these programs within each jurisdiction. The ABC will look to develop guidance material on communications strategies in conjunction with jurisdictional communications professionals.

Austrroads Projects Managed by the ABC Secretariat

Two Austrroads projects were managed by the ABC Secretariat in 2013-14. These projects are both complete and are seeking final signoff through the Network Task Force. When this signoff process is complete, the material will be published on the Australian Bicycle Council website as case studies. This should be completed in the next few weeks.

The projects are:

- **NS1779 – Low Cost Interventions to Encourage Cycling**
This project identifies effective low-cost measures that encourage people to use bicycles for short transport journeys including journeys to work. This project identifies hard and soft infrastructure interventions along with behaviour change programs that are cost effective and can encourage cycling.
- **NS1780 - Urban Cycling Infrastructure Design Resource**
This project identifies infrastructure case studies that showcase innovative planning and design.

The ABC secretariat is managing a new project in the 2014-15 year to develop guidance on bicycle wayfinding. Sustainable Transport Consultants have been awarded the contract and are currently working on a literature review of international and Australian wayfinding practice.

The project is:

- **NT1998 – Bicycle Wayfinding**
This project aims to develop guidance for practitioners who are looking to provide wayfinding signage, road marking and other provisions to aid bicycle users to navigate bicycle networks.

Other Austroads Projects

TP1885 – National Guidelines for Transport System Management

The NGTSM provide guidance for transport planners and enable the identification, assessment, appraisal and evaluation of proposed transport initiatives. The current project looks to incorporate active travel in these guidelines for the first time, providing an improved ability to compare the costs and benefits of transport policy decisions across all transport modes.

A draft of the Active Travel component of the NGTSM was provided to the members of the ABC for comment and to enable members to discuss progress with their jurisdictional representatives.

NT1788 – Level of Service Metric

The Level of Service Metric project aims to develop multi-modal metrics for measuring level of service. The project has developed a set of metrics and has tested their application through a number of case studies.

The latest report was provided to the members of the ABC for comment and to confirm that earlier feedback had been incorporated.

NT1783 – Development of the Accessibility Planning Network Operating Plan

The purpose of this project is to incorporate accessibility planning concepts into the network operations planning (NOP) framework such that issues of accessibility are properly considered and addressed in the process of NOP.

Working Paper 4 of the project was provided to the members of the ABC for comment and to enable members to discuss progress with their jurisdictional representatives.

NP1718 – Update to the Guide to Road Design

This update is an opportunity to improve the guidance on bicycle infrastructure at roundabouts. Following recent research done by Austroads on Bicycle Lanes in Roundabouts, the ABC has put forward a number of suggestions to the working group overseeing the update. The ideas address some of the safety concerns regarding bicycle lanes in roundabouts and provide additional guidance on separated bicycle facilities at roundabouts.

NT2013 – Update to the Guide to Traffic Management

This update is a chance to improve the guidance provided for choosing the appropriate bicycle facility for a given road environment. The current guidance is a diagram that suggests the appropriate type of infrastructure given a road environment of a certain speed and motorised traffic volume. This approach has several shortcomings as it assumes that the road environment is pre-determined rather than allowing for a more proactive approach in designing a space for a particular purpose.

Standards Work

An update was provided on standards work that relates to bicycles as follows:

- The Bicycle Parking standard (AS 2890.3:1993) is currently under revision with a public consultation process nearing completion. The committee has met and has considered over 220 comments. The standard is being redrafted to incorporate various changes.
- The international standard for bicycle lights was passed in July – this is expected to be adopted by the Australian standard when it is reviewed in 2015/16.
- The review of the child carrier seat standard continues.
- The development of a new bicycle trailer seat standard continues.
- A review of bicycle helmet standards will commence in 2015 in 2 stages as follows:
 - Stage 1 – batch testing requirements
 - Stage 2 – complete review of helmets
- A new tagalong bike standard has been drafted.
- The changes required to allow 250w bicycles on WA roads have been included with a number of other changes in the WA Road Traffic Legislation. These are expected to be approved by the end of 2014 and agencies will be given 3 months to incorporate the changes into their operations. This will enable the change to become active in about April 2015.

Operational Guidelines for Designing Signalised Intersections with Bicycles

The secretariat provided videos to describe the performance of various signalised intersections, with a focus on how to improve the performance for bicycles without impacting on other road users. It was agreed that an audit would be conducted on several bicycle routes in Sydney to test innovative approaches to improving the level of service for bicycle users.

Netherlands Study Tour

Stephen Hodge, Peter Bourke and Myfanwy Lawrence from the ABC were involved in trip to the Netherlands which was supported by the Dutch Consulate and was attended by a variety of cycling stakeholders. Stakeholders included employees of NRMA, RACQ, Bicycle NSW, state/local government and more.

The trip was incredibly well-received and was highly valuable for those who attended. The Dutch have high car ownership but only use cars for suitable trips. In the 70s, the Netherlands had 10% cycling mode share but underwent a revolution as a result of an oil shock and concerns about road safety (“Stop the Child Murder”). They now have around 27% of all trips made by bicycle.

Stephen played an excellent video showing highlights of the Netherlands Study Tour and some quotes from attendees that show how valuable the insights were to them.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will occur in Hobart at the end of February 2015.