

**ITEM 54. TRAFFIC TREATMENT – SHARED PATHS – WATTLE AND WILLIAM
HENRY STREETS AND BRIDGE AND PYRMONT BRIDGE ROADS**

TRIM RECORD NO: 2017/463893

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee endorse the introduction of Shared Paths at the following locations in Ultimo, Glebe and Pyrmont:

- (A) Western side of Wattle Street between Broadway and Bridge Road;
- (B) Eastern side of Wattle Street opposite Kelly Street;
- (C) Eastern side of Wattle Street between Wattle Crescent and the point 77 metres south of Wattle Crescent;
- (D) Northern side of William Henry Street between Bay and Wattle Streets;
- (E) Southern side of Bridge Road between Wattle and Bellevue Streets; and
- (F) Northern side of Pyrmont Bridge Road between Wattle Street and the Western Distributor westbound load ramp.

VOTING MEMBERS FOR THIS ITEM

<i>Voting Members</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Object</i>
City of Sydney		
Roads and Maritime Services		
NSW Police – Sydney City LAC		
NSW Police – Leichhardt LAC		
Representative for the Member for Sydney		
Representative for the Member for Balmain		

DECISION

BACKGROUND

The City is committed to encouraging people to ride bicycles more often and safely. The City is improving the safety and amenity of cycling infrastructure by making bicycle riding a real and convenient option for short local trips.

The Shared Paths will improve the safety of people on bikes by providing an alternative to riding on roads with high traffic speeds and volumes such as Wattle Street, Bridge Road and Pyrmont Bridge Road. The Shared Paths will improve safety and accessibility for people riding to Sydney TAFE, UTS, Wentworth Park, Sydney Fish Market and Wentworth Park Light Rail Station.

As Wattle Street is a one-way northbound road between Broadway and Fig Street, the Shared Path on the western side of Wattle Street will improve accessibility by permitting

cyclists to travel southwards along Wattle Street towards Broadway Shopping Precinct and UTS.

COMMENTS

Bicycle riding is supported as a low cost, environmentally friendly mode of transport that can help to improve the liveability of our towns and cities.

Shared Paths provide connections between other types of cycling facilities on roads where the volume and speed of traffic makes on-road cycling difficult and the provision of dedicated bicycle facilities unachievable.

Wattle Street and Bridge and Pyrmont Bridge Roads are classified State Roads with high traffic speeds and volumes. According to Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) data, Wattle Street has an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of 24,000 vehicles and Pyrmont Bridge Road has an ADT of 30,000 vehicles per day. Bridge and Pyrmont Bridge Roads is signposted as 60km/h.

According to Transport for NSW Centre for Road Safety, the recommended minimum shared path width is 2.5 metres, which is based on Austroads guidelines. This recommendation has been achieved for the majority of the route. For a small section on the western side of Wattle Street, the existing footway width of approximately 2.3 metres will be maintained as there is existing verge which provides a buffer to moving vehicles. Additional measures will be provided to mitigate risks at this location. According to Austroads guidelines, a Shared Path width of two metres is acceptable for local access paths where user volumes and speeds are low. As Wattle Street is flat, rider speeds will be slow and the anticipated volume of riders will not compromise path safety.

Many of the proposed Shared Paths are currently used by cyclists as they provide access to various destinations and offer safety benefits compared to riding on roads with high traffic speeds and volumes. Counts undertaken on the northern path of Pyrmont Bridge Road (east of Wattle Street) on 19 October 2016 recorded:

- 80 cyclists between 7am and 9am; and
- 91 cyclists between 4pm and 5pm.

Counts undertaken on the western path of Wattle Street (south of Bridge Road) on 19 October 2016 recorded 49 cyclists between 4pm and 5pm.

The proposal will increase awareness of the presence of people riding on these paths by installing signs and pavement markings to reduce conflict and improve safety.

Transport for NSW Centre for Road Safety research findings published in August 2015 found that Shared Paths represent a relatively low safety risk. Pavement markings will be installed to increase awareness of the shared environment, reinforce pedestrian priority and encourage low speeds for cyclists using the Shared Paths. The proposal consists primarily of signage and pavement markings and will not effect on street parking.

CONSULTATION

The City consulted local residents and businesses in the area. There were 548 letters sent out with two responses supporting the proposal, two responses opposing the proposal and one neutral submission.

The two opposing submissions raised concerns about the interaction of people walking and riding on the proposed Shared Paths.

FINANCIAL

Funds are available in the current budget as part of the City's Cycling Safety Program.

Traffic Treatment – Shared Paths – Wattle and William Henry Streets and Bridge and Pymont Bridge Roads

Justin Murphy, Senior Designer – Cycling

Glebe, Pyrmont and Ultimo Cycling Improvements



The Proposal

The City of Sydney is proposing to introduce shared paths for people walking and riding on sections of Wattle Street, William Henry Street, Bridge Road and Pyrmont Bridge Road. The shared paths will improve the safety of people on bikes by providing an alternative to riding on busy roads such as Wattle Street, Bridge Road and Pyrmont Bridge Road. The shared paths will make it safer for people travelling to Sydney TAFE, UTS, Wentworth Park and Sydney Fish Market.

The proposed changes consist primarily of signage and pavement markings. The proposal will not effect on-street parking.

What is a Shared Path?

A shared path is a footpath that is shared by people walking and riding bikes. People walking have priority on shared paths. Bike riders are encouraged to travel slowly and use their bell when approaching people walking. Blue pavement markings will be installed along the shared paths to reinforce pedestrian priority and encourage riders to travel slowly.

Shared Path Pavement Markings

The City of Sydney uses distinctive pavement markings to improve the safety of people using shared paths.



Example shared path pavement markings

Have Your Say

We encourage you to have your say about the proposed shared paths. Feedback can be provided by email to council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or by post to:

Justin Murphy
City of Sydney
GPO Box 1591
Sydney NSW 2001

Submissions must be made in writing and quote your name, address and reference number 2017/463893 and be received before 6pm on Monday 6 November 2017.

More Information

If you require any further information please contact Justin Murphy on 9265 9333 or jmurphy@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

