

## **Australian Bicycle Council Meeting – Michael Ferigo Christchurch City Council**

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### **Purpose**

To provide feedback on the July meeting and September 2004 teleconference of the Australian Bicycle Council meeting.

### **Background**

The ABC is the Australian national body that manages and coordinates the implementation of the national Australian Cycling Strategy. Within its terms of reference it is noted that it will work closely with New Zealand on issues relevant to both.

Along with managing the strategy objectives, the Council also functions as the Austroads Bicycle Reference Group.

The Council usually meets three times and has three teleconferences per year. Each year the Council focuses on a number of priority outcomes it wants to progress from the Strategy – in 2004 these are:

All State and Territory jurisdictions are undertaking work to support implementation of the Strategy, including bike education and training, infrastructure development, promotion and safety issues. The Council has established priority actions to enable it to focus resources more effectively on achieving the best possible outcomes for implementation.

The priority areas currently include:

Strategy 2.2 – To develop a generic policy that can be adapted by all local governments to promote cycling.

Strategy 4.4 - To research and trial measures to improve safety for cyclists.

Strategy 5.1 - To develop and implement a national marketing strategy to promote cycling and its benefits.

Strategy 5.2 - Developing National Data indicators for cycling

Strategy 5.3 - To undertake research on emerging issues associated with cycling.

Strategy 6.3 - Developing key messages to promote cycling awareness and influence workers in all relevant occupational groups.

Strategy 6.5 - Promoting cycling in professional training and tertiary education

## **Feedback & Key Outcomes**

The July Brisbane Meeting (no. 17) and the September teleconference covered a broad range of items. Particular agenda items of note were:

- Austroads Program Manager – Network Dennis Walsh presented the three-year rolling network program. The 2004/05-work plan was submitted and approved by the Council. The work plan includes the revision of the National Cycling Strategy, the development of design guidelines for Bus and Bike interaction and the development of best practice for pedestrian and bike interaction on paths.
- Austroads also presented a progress report on the preparation towards the 2005/06 future review of AUSTROADS Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice Bicycles Part 14. It is likely that the contents of part 14 will be incorporated into the main body of the document rather than as a separate chapter, so that for example the subject section on roundabouts would contain everything that is required including cycling interests.
- A Report was given by ARRB Transport Research updating the Austroads Bus and Bicycle interaction within the Rooding Network Research Project. This project has subsequently been forwarded to all members for endorsement – including Transit NZ (David Bates).
- Progress was also reported on the development of a Pedestrian-Cyclists conflict minimisation – both perceived and actual – on paths. Tender applications were reported along with selection and the timeframe for development, the final report of the study findings are scheduled for August 2005.
- Progress reported on the beginning of the development of an ‘Australian Centre for Excellence in Cycle Tourism’. NZ was sited as being seen as an attractive cycle tourism destination and that Australia wanted to also be seen in this light by international tourist but wasn’t currently due in part to lack of co-ordinated marketing.
- Endorsement was gained for publishing on the web cycling data and indicators relating to “ Australian Cycling – Bicycle ownership, Use and Demographics (July 2004)” these are now held on the ABC web page. These help in providing a national framework for reporting of cycling data. This information is very applicable to New Zealand and could provide the basis for our national cycling data.

- Other agenda items that may be of particular interest to Transit include current projects covering 'Whole of Life Costings on shared path pavement design' and 'Parameters to effectively prioritise bicycle infrastructure' proposals'. Both these items had progress reports given to the meeting.

### **Recommendations**

That the information be received