

More people Cycling More Often



Help make the Inner City Strategic Cycle network a reality.

The City of Sydney, with the support of funding from the NSW State Government have put together a plan for an “Inner City Strategic Cycle Network” for Sydney covering 15 local government areas in a 5 -10kms radius around the CBD of Sydney. Bicycle NSW worked closely with the City of Sydney to help shape this plan, and it has our full support. The plan was included in a funding submission to Infrastructure Australia and a copy of this submission is available on the Bicycle NSW website at <http://www.bicyclensw.org.au/content/advocacy-news>

What the City of Sydney is saying is that while they have committed funds as set out in the submission (\$77m over the next 4 years) to their own bicycle network they need Infrastructure Australia to fund a network of separated cycleways that connect in and reach out to communities and local government areas around the CBD.

Your efforts have already paid dividends with the King Street Cycleway construction in full swing and plans for Bourke St and Union Street in the CBD not far behind. We are now asking for your support to help us convince decision makers in government at all levels. We ask you to write to the politicians listed below and voice your support for the “Inner City Strategic Cycle Network”

Please make your letters and emails positive. Your strong and well put support will give our politicians the confidence to act. We suggest that you write in a tone that is clear, polite and firm. Abusive letters rarely get a response and are usually counter-productive. A letter based on your personal experience and circumstances will be more convincing.

Use any of the statistics quoted in this document or from our website, and here are some thoughts to help you get started:

Some “Big Picture” stuff:

- In our opinion the plan is a real “congestion buster”, offering an achievable way to lessen the “peak hour” load on the road and passenger train networks for those commuting up to 5 – 10kms into the CBD. **RTA bicycle count reporting shows weekday bicycle trips in Sydney grew by 68% between 2002 and 2007.**
http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/usingroads/downloads/cyclinginsydney_bicycleownershipanduse.pdf
- The plans are for safe separated bike lanes – shown around the world to be the single most important issue that needs to be addressed to encourage more new and novice riders to get out and on their bikes and experience the benefits of riding more often
- The plans can create real economic benefits in both the short and long term:
 - In the short term because many of the proposed projects are well advanced in preparation and detailed design – meaning spending and economic activity will happen quickly – when our economy needs it.
 - In the longer term - a key budgetary challenge facing governments around Australia, and also in many countries around the world – is the rapidly burgeoning health budget. Regular and moderate physical activity such as walking and bike riding has been proven to improve community health and so reduce the burden on our health system into the future.



Life's better on a bike!

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- There is growing community recognition that encouraging bicycle riding is a key part of the task for us all in creating a low carbon future – this is evidenced by the strong support shown for the City of Sydney Lord Mayor and the Independent team at the recent local government elections where there support from voters grew by some 15% points.

And some specifics:

- The plan addresses some key “missing links” in the bicycle path network, that if filled offer the potential for significant return on investment in terms of delivering new riders to deliver the congestion busting, health improving, low carbon outcomes that bike riding represents. These “missing links” include:
 - The Harbourlink project in North Sydney – details at <http://www.sydneyharbourlink.com/>
 - The creation of safe quality north/south and east/west routes through and within the CBD – continuing with the good progress that King St is making.
 - The Cook’s River to Iron Cove Greenway Project – details at <http://www.greenway.org.au/home.html>
 - Key corridors into the City – from the West along Victoria Road to compliment plans for the Iron Cove Bridge, from the South completing the Alexandria Canal Cycleway from the airport, and from the south east along the Anzac Parade corridor.

The politicians to write to are:

Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.
The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, A.Albanese.MP@aph.gov.au

(If you only write one letter – write to Anthony Albanese because his is the relevant Federal Ministerial Portfolio and he is Sydney based)

NSW Minister for Roads. The Hon. Michael Daley MP office@daley.minister.nsw.gov.au

(Minister Daley has already spoken out publicly about the need to create better bicycle infrastructure in Sydney- particularly because of the assistance it will be in improving community health and balancing the budget)

And you might want to write a quick note of thanks and support to

The Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore, cmoore@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

(Remember, the City of Sydney - through the Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision and plans for a livable green network to provide safe, quality, continuous routes for pedestrians and cyclists throughout the local government area – are showing fabulous leadership in this regard, so extra words of encouragement to the Lord Mayor will be particularly helpful) .



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