
**A4A Forum Notes
Accessibility for All
12 March 2021 – 10:00am
Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond**

Present: Chairman Malcolm Saunders (Independent), Derek Aldridge (Stoke Seniors), Pam Coltman (Nelson Grey Power), David Kemp (Independent) Mike Stevens (Blind Citizens), Karen Wilson (Blind Citizens), Rodger Curry (Blind Citizens), Coryn Owen (Blind Citizens), Kate Malcom (NT Community Transport Trust), Kaye Halkett (Independent), Tracey McConnachie (Driving Miss Daisy), Cr Mel Courtney (Nelson City Council), Callum Inns (Nelson City Council) Drew Bryant (Tasman District Council), Megan Bell (Tasman District Council), Clare Scott (Tasman District Council), Dwayne Fletcher (Tasman District Council) Christine Vass (Tasman District Council)

Apologies: Marrit Walstra-Russell, Mitchell Roads, Jane Murray, Rachael Large, John Harwood, Gary Alsop, Marg Parfitt

Chair Person: Malcom Saunders

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Malcolm Saunders welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that they introduce themselves and the organisation they represented. Malcom talked about his recent bike accident on the Great Taste Trail that he was involved in and advised that he is now recovering.

The committee accepted the apologies from Marrit Walstra-Russell, Rachael Large, Mitchell Rhodes, Jane Murray, Gary Alsop, John Harwood and Marg Parfitt.

**Mover: Cr Mel Courtney
Second: Pam Coltman
CARRIED**

2. Confirmation of minutes from the meeting on 13 November 2020

**Mover: Malcolm Saunders
Second: Pam Coltman
CARRIED**

3. Confirmation of 2021 A4A dates

12 March, 18 June, 10 September, 17 December 2021

Mover: Malcolm Saunders
Seconder: David Kemp
CARRIED

4. Updating riding instructions on the Great Taste Trail

Malcolm Saunders outlined the specific details of the accident he was involved in which was a head on collision with another cyclist around the back of the Richmond Resource Centre. Malcolm and the other person who lost consciousness were taken by ambulance to hospital and treated for their injuries. This was a situation that could have had fatal consequences. There is a concern about the width of the trail as it is very narrow and he would like to know if potentially it could be widened.

David Kemp said there was also a problem on the railway reserve where cyclists speed past without any indication and are quite rude and arrogant. Megan Bell replied that Tasman District Council are working on a road safety campaign with Nelson City Council called "*Share with Care*" to encourage road etiquette and respect.

Drew Bryant advised that in the Long Term Plan improvements are in the pipeline and we have the budget to make these improvements.

Mike Stevens said he was involved in a meeting yesterday with several Councilors about shared paths and he was very happy with an education strategy coming out about sharing paths.

Malcolm said bikers are quite rude and need to be more accommodating. Cr Mel Courtney as the Nelson City Council representative was keen to learn what the improvements will be and Drew Bryant said widening parts of the trail would be an opportunity and also to improve cycle lanes. Malcolm also noted that the green area alongside the trail can become quite untidy and cyclists may choose not to move over into the green areas. David Kemp said he has taken part in a number of plantings and the intrusion of the greenery if plants are within one meter of the trail and in time they will be overgrown and will need to be cut back. He suggests that greenery should be planted further away.

5. Shop signs/sandwich board placement on footpaths in both Nelson City Council & Tasman District Council retail areas with view to consistency in both areas

Karen Wilson requested that Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council signs be consistent in urban areas and that she has requested this several times and to date no one has responded. It would help shopkeepers and walkers to have a consistent approach with shop signs. Megan Bell explained that the Council is aware and shopkeepers were asked to keep signs on the edge of the footpath creating a clear pathway. Megan also said that Tasman District Council have distributed a new brochure and staff have talked to each shopkeeper asking

nicely if they could keep signs consistent especially for people with access issues. It has been a bit of a battle and we are asking nicely and explaining why and following up but we cannot enforce. Karen said most shopkeepers just put a sign outside their shop and are not aware of it being an encumbrance to some people.

Tracey McConnachie said that signs can be difficult to walk around and why do they need signs on the footpath at all when they have advertising on the shop itself and signs just shouldn't be on the footpath.

Cr Mel Courtney thanked Karen for raising this and he agreed the signs are encroaching more and more and will take this issue back to Nelson City Council for further discussion. He said with the COVID situation at present we might show some leniency but we must also remind shopkeepers of their responsibility.

Rodger Curry said he believes that signs have been banned in Invercargill. Derek Aldridge said the situation in Auckland was worse as tables and chairs are all over the footpath which causes a safety hazard.

Drew Bryant advised this issue was raised with the Tasman District Council Councilors but the direction was not clear. A current planning document which states that shopkeepers had a right to have a sign out has now been rewritten and this will be tabled later this year. Malcom responded and said our committee is quite powerful and we will assist in getting things changed.

Kaye Halkett said as a blind citizen, she wanted to thank Tasman District Council for the upgraded footpath on Queen Street making it wider and was pleased to hear that further progress is being made and she looks forward to Nelson City Council upgrading their footpaths.

David Kemp related an incident in Nelson that he witnessed recently where an older gentleman was walking with the aid of a walking stick trying to find the florist and he could not see out to the side because of his impaired vision and tripped over one of the signs falling onto the footpath. He was 90 years old and frail. People assume that everyone can see signs and he suggested that signs be more obvious and suggested they be painted with high visibility colours.

Tracey McConnachie asked what was the process was and Drew Bryant explained that we have bylaws and an amendment would have to be made to the bylaw but it is not an easy process.

Callum Inns from Nelson City Council said that the signage situation will be reviewed.

6. Nelson Tasman Public Transport Plan & Regional Land Transport Plan Overview

Malcom Saunders said he attended the Active Transport overview which was very well run and said that something does need to be done due to the greater

volume of transport and welcomed hearing from Drew. Drew said these two documents, the Nelson Tasman Public Transport Plan and Regional Land Transport Plan are out for public comment at present and he talked through his power point presentation.

Kate Malcolm asked what has been the response from the Motueka and Mapua communities. Drew Bryant advised that the Mapua community asked about prioritised lanes and Clare Scott advised there is potential for a dedicated express route. Kate said most people when driving would use Whakatu Drive and not Stoke and what would be the reason in not having dedicated lanes on Whakatu Drive as she could not see why people who currently drive into Nelson would want to take the bus. Drew asked Kate to put these issues into her submission.

Pam Coltman noted that the roads in the new Berryfield subdivision are very narrow and not wide enough making it difficult to get a car up the road and adding that if there is a fire or an emergency then the fire truck or ambulance has a problem accessing this subdivision. Megan Bell said the Council are currently discussing this issue and working on solutions with emergency providers. Pam said that at the transit meetings she has been to the Council and people in this area are frustrated with not getting anything done.

Cr Mel Courtney asked if these programmes could be brought forward. Drew said discussions would take place after submissions had been received to understand the extent of the concern and the path forward. Kate Malcolm asked if their submission could include bringing these plans forward and Drew advised that she could absolutely.

Cr Mel Courtney also asked about the frequency of the services and Clare Scott advised that they would be regular and consistent.

Malcom Saunders asked about a Hill Street and Queen Street roundabout due to the volume of traffic, Dwayne Fletcher advised there was not a project for this at present.

Pam asked about a roundabout further up Lower Queen Street to allow people to turn right out of the Medical Centre, Oakwood Retirement Village, etc, she thought there would be a roundabout at that location. Drew Bryant explained that in the Long Term Plan a proposed new intersection would be at Berryfield Drive.

7. Active Transport, Social Seating & Better Community Health Walking & Socialising in the Public Domain

David Kemp said that walking is important for health and also assists with community social isolation and loneliness. We want people to get out to walk and we want it to be easier for them. After walking for 20 minutes there should be a seat to sit on, this is a concept used in most cities. The importance of casual conversations where there is seating assists with this and builds a richness into

the community and we should have more seating in our parks and reserves. Thorpe's Bush and outside the Richmond Library are good examples.

David also said walking around Saxton Field there was no seating and on the railway reserve there are no toilets and no seating.

David said we need to encourage walking groups and rehabilitation for people who need to have regular seating. Malcolm said some seating was underway in Saxton Field.

Pam thanked David and said what a great idea for a walking train for the elderly and children. Malcom Saunders thanked David for his passion and felt sure that the Council would implement his ideas with the A4A Committee in total agreement.

Kaye Halkett advised that as a blind pedestrian she likes the concept and suggests it could be a door to door concept where it is safe to cross roads and extended just not in parks.

8. Concept for the development of Saxton Field adjacent to Champion Road as a Social Hub

David Kemp said the Champion Road/Raeward roundabout is the center of a lot of shops and businesses and Saxton Field is empty most of the time. There is no socialising seating or shelter between the high school and roundabout.

He suggested the corner area could be used for a children's playground, seating, toilets, etc, to encourage socialisation. Malcom said it would be marvellous to have more interactive areas for people to meet and socialise. David asked if there is any statement from Tasman District Council or Nelson City Council about more areas for socialisation rather than just sports in Saxton Field.

Cr Mel Courtney said David has raised some good points. Saxton Field is evolving and Nelson City Council will be considering David's ideas. Mel said we could do better than having just sporting activities and to include other members of the community for socialisation.

9. Council's Active Transport Strategy

Clare Scott talked through her power point presentation creating safe, pleasant environments for people to choose active travel over private car use and making it easy for people to get around and not always using the private car. The idea is making it easier for people to say YES. We want an urban design structure to encourage people to socialise and be a more pleasant place to live in. School travel planning will be a key aspect of this plan as well.

Cr Mel Courtney thanked Clare for her presentation and said it was very well done particularly the communication that we are not forcing people to do something that they do not want.

Kate also thanked Clare for her presentation. She mentioned the international quote "*A developed country is not a place where the poor have cars. It's where the rich use public transportation*". This is a huge challenge and we are lucky to have Clare and Drew which give us hope to meet the new challenges.

Malcom liked the idea of reducing speeds along residential roads as cars are currently speeding along Champion Road and other streets.

10. General Business

Pam Coltman had concerns about foliage on the footpaths especially Wensley Road. Megan Bell advised Pam to contact the Council.

Tracey McConnachie asked about the Total Mobility Scheme and if this could include a sliding scale. Drew said the limit would be lifted from \$20 to \$30 in the new plan and he suggested that Tracey put in a submission.

Pam noted that she raised the issue at the last meeting of young people cycling recklessly on footpaths and were continuing to do so. Megan Bell advised that she will be liaising with the Richmond Police who have offered to talk about this at our next meeting and advise what strategies are being put in place to address this situation.

11. Pamphlet – Delivering Barrier Free Business

Christine Vass asked about these pamphlets as we have half a box left. Megan Bell advised that these were given out to shopkeepers for their information.

The Chair Malcom Saunders thanked everyone for their input into the meeting.

Meeting closed at 1210pm