

MEDIA RELEASE



SHOROC COUNCILS CONTINUE PUSH FOR TRANSPORT ACTION

29 November 2012

In their continued push for action to fix the transport woes of the Northern Beaches & Mosman, the SHOROC councils have unanimously adopted two submissions to the NSW Government in response to the Northern Beaches Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) pre-feasibility report and draft NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan.

“SHOROC has put together a practical package of measures for the coming years based on the options identified by the NSW Government, together with a plan of action to get things moving”, said Mayor Regan. “I call on the Transport Minister and our local MPs to work with us to make it happen”.

“In its own studies the NSW Government says our region has the most congested road in Sydney and that Warringah Road will soon come to a standstill”, said SHOROC President and Warringah Mayor Michael Regan.

“Let’s get on with the job of fixing it”.

Encouragingly the NSW Government has identified a BRT is feasible for the region, has included a Northern Beaches BRT in the draft NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan and Infrastructure NSW has included a ‘Northern Beaches Link’ in its State Infrastructure Strategy.

“The progress so far is clearly a result of our councils and local MPs working together,” said Mayor Regan.

“The SHOROC Board is meeting with The Hon Jillian Skinner MP, The Hon Brad Hazzard MP, The Hon Mike Baird MP, The Hon Rob Stokes MP and The Hon Jonathan O’Dea MP next week and our much needed public transport and road upgrades will be top of the Agenda.”

The integrated package of transport solutions for the next 5 years includes:

- Grade separation at the intersections of Warringah Road with Wakehurst Parkway and Forest Way and upgrades to Wakehurst Parkway to provide flood-free access.
- Fast public transport links from Dee Why to Chatswood, with an initial focus on the provision of frequent and direct Express Bus services and bus priority measures.
- A fast Bus Rapid Transit system on the north-south corridor from Mona Vale to the CBD, via a median bus lane using tidal flow arrangements in peak hour.
- Construction of targeted park & rides to maximise patronage of public transport.
- Detailed regional transport planning in partnership with the councils to maximise the efficiency of the network and seek to manage demand and promote alternative transport.
- Implementation of the proposed bus network rationalisation including the new tiered network structure and associated frequency improvements.
- Mona Vale Road upgrade to a divided dual-lane carriageway for its full length through to Mona Vale.

In the medium-longer term the priorities are:

- Upgrading of the public transport links from Dee Why to Chatswood from Express Buses to a segregated BRT and potentially light rail or other greater capacity transport in future years.
- The proposed Northern Beaches Link, from the Gore Hill Freeway to the Burnt Bridge Creek Deviation via a tunnel under Mosman and a new bridge over the Spit, combined with the BRT from the Northern Beaches to the CBD, potentially fast-tracked with private sector involvement.
- A new underground Neutral Bay interchange for the Spit/Military Road BRT route.

“Our focus is on what is achievable in tight financial times, however we would welcome acceleration of the proposed Northern Beaches link should it be identified it can be fast-tracked with private sector involvement”

More detail on the SHOROC transport priorities including the submissions can be found at www.shoroc.com.

Ends

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Shore Regional Organisation of Councils – a partnership of Manly, Mosman, Pittwater & Warringah Councils.

