

MEDIA RELEASE



BUS RAPID TRANSIT PLANNING FOR NORTHERN BEACHES WELCOMED BY COUNCILS

14 June 2011

SHOROC has welcomed the NSW Government's announcement of feasibility planning for a Bus Rapid Transit system on the Northern Beaches, saying its construction was vital for the region.

"I applaud the new Government for taking a great step forward by committing funding and resources to plan for a fast, frequent and reliable public transport solution for our region," said SHOROC President and Pittwater Mayor Harvey Rose, "I look forward to the day when the people of Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah council areas will have a real alternative to private car travel."

SHOROC understands the NSW Government's feasibility study will involve a strategic assessment of the Bus Rapid Transit options for the region, including potentials costs, alignment options, integration, environmental impacts and traffic and patronage studies.

The implementation of a Bus Rapid Transit is a key priority for investment in the region, as outlined in SHOROC's *Shaping Our Future* strategy which has been adopted by all four councils.

Mayor Rose said that "The feasibility study is the first step toward constructing a public transport system that will deliver real change for our region, and it is critical the Government takes the next steps and allocates the funding so construction can commence in the next one to two years."

SHOROC congratulates the local MPs and NSW Government Ministers Jillian Skinner, Brad Hazzard, Mike Baird, Rob Stokes and Jonathan O'Dea as well as Transport Minister Gladys Berejiklian and Premier O'Farrell for delivering on commitments made before the election.

"The Mayors of Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah have worked closely with our local MPs over the years in bringing this project about and I congratulate the new NSW Government on its vision which, when constructed, will deliver significant benefits for the Northern Beaches and North Shore" said Mayor Rose.

Mayor Rose added "I am also pleased that the MPs have arranged for SHOROC to work closely with the Department of Transport on the feasibility study, demonstrating a strong partnership approach with our councils on this vital project".

A key element of the feasibility planning is that it includes analysis of the route from Mona Vale to the city as well as the route between Dee Why and Chatswood.

"Fast public transport to and from the city is obviously a very important route", said Mayor Rose, "in addition, providing fast reliable public transport between Dee Why and Chatswood will mean this is a viable alternative to car travel for workers getting to and from places such as Chatswood, Macquarie Park and beyond."

The priorities for the SHOROC region are outlined in *Shaping Our Future*, the regional strategy formally agreed in 2010 by Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah councils, available at www.shoroc.com.

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

