

Regional Accessibility Forum (RAF) Minutes

Monday 2 December 2024 – 10.00 am

**Tasman Council Chamber,
189 Queen Street, Richmond**

Present: Chair Campbell Rollo (Nelson City Council), Councillor Glen Daikee (Tasman District Council), Maureen Keogan (Seniors), Pam Coltman (Grey Power), Mike Stevens, Karen Wilson (Blind Citizens), Rodger Curry (Blind Low Vision NZ), Kaye Halkett (Blind and Low Vision), Lynda Scott (Independent Living with Disability), Elizabeth Perrone (CCS Disability Action), Anna Tobin (Youth Council), Kate Malcolm (NELSUST), Viknesh Mahadevan (Community Partnerships Projects Coordinator, Nelson City Council), David Kemp (Independent), Jacqui MacIntyre (Age Concern), Paul Shattock (Nelson City Council), Brett Husband (Nelson City Council), Melanie Ellis (Tasman District Council)

Apologies: Jane Murray, Elizabeth Dooley, Nic Gausel, Amy Shattock

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that everyone introduce themselves and the organisation they represent.

The Chair moved that the apologies listed above be accepted.

Seconded Councillor Daikee

CARRIED

2. Bridge to Better Project Nelson City – Paul Shattock, Manager – Community Engagement, Nelson City Council (NCC)

This project is now at the completing the design stage, and it has been put out for finalising with key stakeholders.

The raised tables currently on Bridge St will be removed due to the confusion over who has the right of way. The number of pedestrian crossings will be increased to ensure safe crossing. The footpath will be cleared. Some of the trees are too big for their current location so will have to go, and an additional 100 trees are to be planted that are good for the location. The design includes improved locations of accessible carparks with two on the southern side outside Ministry of Social Development and close to Age Concern. There will also be accessible carparks by the Co-op bank and some more by MyGym.

One problem has been identified with Connings now in the city, so they are looking to adjust the plan by adding an additional crossing outside Nelson Mail.

On the north side of Bridge St, there will be rain gardens. The street will be angled slightly so the water goes into them, tanks underneath will fill with the water which is then filtered before being released into the river/sea.

A detailed design will be next. Ms Wilson and Mr Curry have given great feedback and they will be catching up again about the zebra crossing from Haven Road.

In answer to a question it is noted that the main purpose of this project is to install new pipes that will be bigger, leak-proof and the water will be drained far quicker than the current system.

Ms MacIntyre (Age Concern) has been working on the Ebuses with Mr Husband, NCC, TDC etc, trying to be more inclusive, there have been information sessions at the libraries to answer questions and then sign up to an Ebus journey, there are 12 drop-in sessions and a pop-up in Atawhai. People will be able to buy Bee Cards at the sessions as well. See attached timetable.

Ms Wilson asked how many power wheelchairs can fit on the bus at a time – two, Ms Scott and Mr Husband will conduct the trial.

Ms Coltman asked how people get to the bus stops and onto the buses as many stops are too far away for elderly to get there so they are using taxis. The answer is that they may use the volunteer Bus Buddies to start journeys from their home.

3. Councillors Update – Chair and Tasman District Councillor Glen Daikee

Tasman District Council

Councillor Daikee confirmed that the tender process has begun for the inclusive playground at Saxton.

The Public Places Bylaw was passed last week and will take effect from 1 February 2025 - thank you Blind Citizens group for assisting staff with this.

Seating in Harriet Court and Langdale Drive is on the way and social seating has been approved.

There was a serious cycle accident due to a bollard in the middle of the cycle track. Please let councils know if there are other possible dangerous things are on tracks.

Community Grants Fund funded two outdoor wheelchairs, one for Pinnacle House and one for Whenua iti Outdoors.

Nelson City Council

The Chair noted that the NCC Nelson Bylaw for sandwich boards is current now. The car park attendants are now responsible for policing the sandwich boards, NCC staff are responsible for this.

The accessibility toilet in Montgomery Square has been upgraded with two foldable armrests, a ramp, a new seat, a new shower head and new floor. The budget unfortunately was reduced so a full revamp of the whole toilet block was not possible.

There is a new contractor distributing the Nelson Weekly and not all homes have been receiving it. Please let NCC know if you are missing out as the feedback and consultation document of Our Nelson is within the Nelson Weekly.

It is noted that the government's policy statement has substantially reduced funding for walking and cycling paths as well as footpath renewals.

The Council has decided to remove some rubbish bins due to the cost. Stoke has the most bins in the whole of Nelson. Some bins have been removed, however Tahunanui and some others will be emptied twice per day instead of once.

In answer to a question the Chair confirmed that NCC actively enforce the rules around Freedom Camping in the Nelson area due to the bylaw which is being reviewed early next year. Isel Park has three carparks available however, there can be up to 22 campers in the carpark. There has not been many tickets given out, but the parking is monitored and there is a lot of working going on in that space.

Action: Chair to follow up Isel Park and Freedom Camping

4. **Public Transport Update – Brett Husband, Public Transport Operations Supervisor, Nelson City Council**

Mr Husband updated the group on:

Public Transport Bus Review - The one-year review is being done. Work done to get NZTA funding as part of Phase One. 250 surveys on bus passengers have been completed. Phase Two - Prioritise what will be next to make this a better service. Phase Three – Implement changes, quite a few bus timetable changes. Earlier and later services and weekend services to Wakefield and Motueka to come.

Action: Mr Husband – To confirm the average number of bus users per day.

Bike racks on eBuses - Due to the NZTA industry alert on 23 October bikes were no longer allowed on buses due to reduced visibility as the law does not discriminate between day and night. The team are working hard on finding a solution.

Millers Acre Hub - Construction starting in February and it will be completed by July. There is concern around the sound system and the affect the noise level has on the other tenants. They are now looking at directional speakers that will ensure the sound is only affecting those waiting for the buses. This will mean having to stand underneath the speakers to hear and people may need to press the buttons to get the audio. Meeting with wheelchair users to ensure the Miller's Acre toilets are suitable for wheelchairs.

It was noted that there are still quite a few concerns that need ironing out around people missing busses even though they are at the stop, switching to kneeling from tilting and where buses stop at the bays, depending on how long they have between turnaround times.

The forum members thanked Brett for all the work he is doing in this space.

5. **Cycling - Kate Malcolm NELSUST**

Thrilled that the 2020 Census showed Nelson has the largest percentage of cyclists in the country. Upsurge in mountain biking, ebiking, commuting.

Bike Hub give away 30 bikes a week on average. Need to make bikes and bike lanes safer for kids going to school. Wensley Road much safer with the bike and speed humps on Wensley Road.

NELSUST advocates for equal consideration for people on bikes, in cars and on buses.

Richmond Streets improvement not really expensive but make a huge difference for safety.

There were some questions around whether the NELSUST members and the give away bike recipients from Bike Hub were updated on the road rules and adherence to the rules. It was noted that primary schools through Councils offer a Road Safety Course for all primary aged children. The Bike Hub course is only around fixing and maintenance of bikes, there is no training on NZ Road Rules or the NCC cycling bylaw.

It was noted that the NZTA declined making e-scooters vehicles so they should be on the footpath, unlike e-bikes which are considered vehicles.

6. General Business

Matters Arising:

Ms Shattock to find out if the footpath under the bridge will be susceptible to flooding – answer not yet available, probably not until a year or so down the track.

Mr Husband confirmed that the hardcopy bus timetables have been received and they are about to be distributed to bus drivers.

Mr Husband and Ms Perrone to catch up re public toilets shelves now that there is a prototype, albeit very expensive stainless-steel option.

Mr Husband and Ms Scott to ride on the bus and trial the schedule now that Ms Scott's electric chair has arrived.

RAF meeting dates details for Newline. Ms Ellis emailed Chris Choat, Communications Manager, of Newline and requested this be added.

Mr Kemp noted that he would like to see Nelson as the Walking and Riding capital of NZ, not just cycling. It would be good to have maps for diversity around the creeks – walking tracks? Nelson Regional Development Agency – try to have a collective between walking groups and tee-up events.

The forum wanted to minute a big thank you to Councillor Rollo, Councillor Daikee and Ms Ellis for all their support this year.

The RAF Forum dates for 2025 are: 24 February, 26 May, 25 August, 24 November.

Meeting closed at 11:45 am.