

Nelson Tasman

Active Transport Forum

Guest Speaker – Martin Wedderburn

Thursday 5 August 2010

Minutes

Presentation – Paved with Gold: The Real Value of Good Street Design

Speaker – Martin Wedderburn, Principal Transport Planner for Colin Buchanan consultancy

The presentation is available as a video to download from the Nelson City Council Website (search phrase 'Active Transport Forum').

Question and answer session:

Q Can you comment on the availability of seating in Nelson – we have a lot of it leased to cafes, so there's not a lot of public seating in the CBD.

A *There seems to be quite a lot of seating on Trafalgar Street, on Halifax/Trafalgar (info centre) and around the Cathedral.*

Q Is it harder to convince the technical people or the political players?

A *In London there is political will and so the technical folk follow the lead, in other places it is still an uphill political battle.*

Q Walk21 monitoring – has it made much progress?

A *Some progress has been made, but not quickly as it only meets once a year. There will be a paper presented in The Hague this year on pedestrian monitoring.*

Q There is a lot of resistance to giving up parking spaces here, what is the answer?

A *In NZ I am surprised to see the sheer abundance of parking and the application of minimum parking standards. In Nelson there is parking on prime sites and locations.*

Q But in London you have more PT than here?

A *Yes, but even in smaller places in the UK there is less parking than here.*

Q We've had a lot of resistance from shops to losing parking here.

A *Per visit pedestrians spend less, but they visit more frequently and so spend more money overall. I suggest you get businesses to carry out survey of their customers and make sure they include frequency. Retailers tend to overestimate the number of customers who arrive in private vehicles.*

Q Can you comment on the effects of canopies in the CBD?

A *You seem to have a lot of them here. In the UK we may be building more of them in future for shade. At present arcade facilities stop in Southern France, but given the UK's climate is supposed to be similar to Southern France's in 50 years...*

Q Just I noticed there were few canopies in Europe...

A *In terms of rain a fixed canopy is great, but in terms of shade a temporary canopy is just as good. Fixed canopies can become intrusive with advertising.*

Q Can you comment on aging populations and trouble with mobility scooters? We've had crashes between scooters and pedestrians here.

A *Gradients can be a problem. Australian driveway cut downs are particularly steep.*

Q Is Greater London dealing with parking areas for mobility scooters outside shops?

A *Not really. We are behind on this.*

Q The problem is that if they're parked near a wall they are an obstruction to people navigating using the building edge, and if they are near the cars they are also an obstruction.

A Yes. Another aging issue is the frequency and location of toilets and seats.

Q Cyclist and pedestrian conflict – is this an issue in the UK?

A There have been some studies done, and up to a certain volume shared facilities are fine, but over this segregated facilities are better. There is a big problem, with footpaths under bridges – very narrow – use of sign to ring bell and slow down.

Q In Nelson we have recently adopted a keep left policy on shared paths. In Brisbane there are a mix of approaches. What do you do in the UK?

A In parks we tend to allow cycling on certain routes and the rest are segregated because of volume. On some paths along the Thames there are no signs to say whether the path is shared or not – in low volume situations this works fine, in other areas cyclist volumes are down because of the high number of pedestrian, it just isn't possible to travel faster than walking speed.

Q Shared paths lighting – what do you do?

A Some are lit because they are well used at night and is lit for security reasons. Some other parks are not popular to light – mostly cyclists and few pedestrians. Some parks we close altogether at night.

Followed by afternoon tea.

Benchmarking session

Martin gave a presentation on the walking and cycling benchmarking tool under development by NZTA. The slideshow from this presentation can be found on the NCC Active Transport Forum webpage, or follow the link below to the paper recently presented at the IPENZ conference.

http://www.hardingconsultants.co.nz/ipenz2010/downloads/03_Cheeseborough_Tim.pdf

Forum closed

Attendance:

Marg Parfit – NCC
Yvonne Gwyn - NCC
Andrew James -NCC
Britta Hietz NCC
Andrew Petheram – NCC
Sue McAuley – NCC
David Jackson - NCC
Sarah Downs – TDC
Judy Cox – Enviro WW Ltd – Walking
Dave Tippet – Sport Tasman
Richard Butler – NMDHB
David Ogilvie – Motueka Community Board
Johanna Plough – Out of Parliament Secretary for Kevin Hague (Green Party MP)
Hein Kolff -Green Party
Jessica Fleet (Opus)
Andrew Ferguson (Opus)
Peter Constantine – Marlborough District Council
Ian Sutherland - Marlborough District Council
Karen Brooks - Golden Bay Community Board
Graeme Thomas – NCC Councillor
Derek Shaw– NCC Councillor

Apologies:

Gail Collingwood
Kerry Marshall
Krista Hobday
Glenis Glover
John Moore
Kevin Hague
Hilary Gennet