

Item 10: Operations

10.1 Acceptance of Grant Funding - Walking and Cycling Program

REPORT BY THE ASSET MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR
TO 21 SEPTEMBER 2022 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400098, A0180023

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Asset Management Coordinator on the Acceptance of Grant Funding - Walking and Cycling Program;**
2. **accept \$150,000 in funding from Active Transport, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) for Mid-Western Regional Council's Walking and Cycling Program Strategic Plan; and**
3. **provide the required co-contribution of \$37,500 from the existing Pedestrian Access Management Plan strategic review budget.**

Executive summary

The NSW Government is committed to encouraging people of all ages and abilities to walk or cycle as part of their everyday travel. This grant program by TfNSW is to help council develop a sustainable forward program of walking and cycling projects that provides tangible benefits for the communities.

Mid-Western Regional Council has been successful in the application for this grant funding.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

MWRC has secured grant funding for "Walking and Cycling Program Strategic Plan" to address the accessibility and mobility requirements of our growing community. Council's previous Pedestrian & Mobility Plan 2016-2022 and Mudgee Bike plan 2008 plan are drawing to their conclusion, and it is time to assess and plan for the on-going requirements of our rapidly growing region. This strategy study will be funded on a 25:75 basis with Transport for NSW (Active Transport Division).

Council is committed to continue with the development of new and upgrade existing pathways around the shire, incorporating visions of Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan alongside with MWRC Strategies, Policies and Plans. The project will identify and prioritise pathway design and construction projects within the region to guide Council spending over the next ten years. It includes both network expansion and taking into account local strategic planning. The community will benefit immensely from this project, as it will address different groups of pathway users and necessity measures to make their journey more accessible and comfortable.

The key objectives of this study are:

- Establish a strategy for shared pathways on existing and future pathways within the centres of Mudgee, Gulgong, Kandos and Rylstone.
- Identify the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, people with disabilities, seniors, children, commuters, fitness users, and tourists.
- Prioritise pedestrian movements in areas of high concentration.
- Reduce pathway severance, particularly between existing infrastructure and new pathways created on town fringes, and create safe and convenient crossing opportunities at major roads.
- Propose prioritised measures with associated costs that can be realistically implemented over a ten year period and can inform council spending.

The key outcomes of the feasibility study will:

- Identify the pedestrian network within Gulgong, Kandos, Mudgee and Rylstone and categorises routes as primary, secondary and tertiary routes. It will outline walking patterns, investigate accident clusters, note existing and proposed pedestrian facilities, and note pedestrian accessibility and mobility issues within areas of higher pedestrian concentration. It will also consider areas in which future development is planned.
- Identify the cycling network within Gulgong, Kandos, Mudgee and Rylstone and categories routes as primary, secondary and tertiary routes.
- Develop a strategic plan addressing:
 - Community needs of pedestrian and mobility access based on current and future regional growth.
 - Influx of aging population.
- Investigate the suitability of existing pathways for wheelchairs, walking aids, mobility scooters, guide dogs, prams and bicycles and recommend areas needing rectification.
- Complete key pedestrian routes.
- Provide appropriate design plans for safe pedestrian routes and convenient crossing opportunities on major roads for school students, the elderly, and the mobility impaired.
- Include conceptual design plans, risk assessments and measures required to reduce injuries to pedestrians.
- Be the outcome of engaging members of the public and key stakeholders through survey consultations and workshops.
- Be read in conjunction with NSW Government Plans including:
 - Future Transport Strategy 2056
 - NSW Long Term Transport Masterplan 2021
 - Central West & Orana Regional Transportation Plan 2021
 - Road Safety Plan

The study will also consider through its assessment the linkages of existing MWRC plans and policies including:

- Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan
- Mudgee Bike plan 2008
- Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012

- Regional Draft Comprehensive Land Use Strategy 2010
- Development Control (DCP) 2013
- Road Asset Management Plan 2016 to 2026
- Mudgee Township Traffic Management Study 2014
- MWRC Community Plan
- Long Tern Financial Plan
- Asset Management Strategy
- Delivery and Operation Plan

Community Plan implications

Theme	Connecting Our Region
Goal	An active travel network within the region
Strategy	Develop and enhance walking and cycling networks across the region

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Part of MWRC Asset Management Strategy
 MWRC Transport Asset Management Plan
 MWRC Community Plan

Council Policies

MWRC Asset Management Policy

Legislation

Not Applicable

Financial implications

The funding agreement will provide \$150,000 and \$37,500 contribution will be required to be made by council, providing a total budget of \$187,500 for the project.

Council has in its 2022/23 budget \$100,000 to funding the review of the PAMP and Cycle Strategy. Council required contribution is proposed to be funded from this existing budget.

Budget Year	Operating Performance Ratio	Own Source Revenue	Building & Infrastructure Renewal
2022/23	✘	-	-
Future Years	✘	-	-

Associated Risks

Strategic planning forms an integral part of planning for future infrastructure needs. Undertaking this study provides a basis for a consultative strategic approach to Councils active transport network and

pedestrian needs. Failure to undertake this study could mean future works are adhoc, may not meet best practice or the long term community needs.

RUSHA RAYAN
ASSET MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

JULIAN GEDDES
DIRECTOR OPERATIONS

1 September 2022

Attachments: Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER