

# 5 Consultation

## 5.1 Community and stakeholder involvement

Consultation activities associated with the Inner West Busway along Victoria Road have included a project website, a project hotline, community update newsletters, and community and stakeholder meetings. During consultation on the Inner West Busway along Victoria Road, almost 200 submissions identified improvements to cyclist and pedestrian facilities in Drummoyne and Rozelle as important issues.

Following consultation with local BUGs the RTA developed the proposal to improve cyclist facilities in the Victoria Road corridor that is the subject of this REF.

Consultation to date on the proposal includes:

- A meeting with Bicycle NSW on 29 January 2008. This meeting was part of consultation for the Inner West Busway along Victoria Road, with the purpose of discussing the proposal from a cycling perspective.
- A meeting with Canada Bay and Leichhardt BUG on 7 February 2008. At this meeting the Leichhardt BUG presented to the team a list of their requests for improvements to cycling facilities within the Victoria Road corridor.
- Specialist advice sought from Warren Solomon of Sustainable Transport Consultants in conjunction with Dick Van Den Dool of GTA consultants. The consultants were asked to propose cycleway improvements along the general corridor of Victoria Road, using details of the proposed Inner West Busway along Victoria Road and in reference to the Leichhardt BUG's improvements list and bicycle plans from both councils. In September 2008, the RTA published ideas to improve cyclist and pedestrian facilities in the Victoria Road corridor. Over 50 responses were received from the community.
- A combined meeting with Canada Bay and Leichhardt councils on 24 July 2008. The RTA tabled the proposals included in the GTA report for council feedback. In addition, other proposals and suggestions from council were sought and noted.
- A meeting with City of Canada Bay Council on 26 September 2008. This meeting was held to assess the options for the cycleway connection from the new bridge (constructed as part of the Victoria Road upgrade project) to the Bay Run at Drummoyne.
- A community update newsletter was distributed to 28,000 residents in the local area in September 2008. The purpose of the newsletter was to inform the community of the proposed improvements to cyclist and pedestrian facilities and to invite them to make a submission on the proposal. Over 50 submissions regarding the proposed improvements were received. These submissions were taken into consideration during the development of the preferred option.
- Attendance at various Leichhardt Municipal Council meetings including the Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting (15 April 2009 and 21 May 2009), the Traffic Committee meeting (8 May 2009) and the Ordinary Council meeting (26 May 2009).
- Attendance at the Canada Bay Council Traffic Committee meeting (21 May 2009) and a briefing at the Canada Bay Council Councillor Workshop (9 June 2009).
- A site inspection of the project area was undertaken on 18 June 2009 in conjunction with Leichhardt Municipal Council and the Bicycle Advisory Committee/Leichhardt BUG representatives.

As part of the Inner West Busway along Victoria Road, consultation was undertaken with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (Metropolitan LALC). Following a site visit and survey of the area, the Metropolitan LALC indicated that they had no objections to the project and confirmed that no Aboriginal cultural heritage constraints exist. As the cyclist and pedestrian improvements proposal is located within the same area, further consultation with the Metropolitan LALC was not required.

Outcomes of the consultation have been used to develop the preferred option for the cycleway and pedestrian improvements proposal outlined in this REF. Further, this REF will be publicly displayed to inform the community and stakeholders of the details of the preferred option, and to invite further comment. Any issues raised in the submissions received would be responded to in a submissions report, which will be available to the public.

## 5.2 Future consultation

If the proposal is determined to proceed, further consultation would be required to inform the community and other stakeholders of the proposal. Communications activities for the proposed works would include the following:

- Further consultation with the local councils to inform them of the works, establish whether they have any plans that would be disrupted by such works, and to identify any key stakeholders that should be notified.
- Further consultation with the local BUGs and Bicycle NSW.
- Consultation with public utilities where required.
- Providing written notification to residents via letterbox drops before work commences, including the details of the proposed works, to local businesses and residents in the immediate vicinity.
- Placing advertisements in local newspapers, where necessary, describing the night works and temporary changes to traffic conditions associated with the proposal.
- Maintaining an enquiry hotline during both day time and night time operations and actioning and recording complaints in a database.