

Accessibility Advisory Group

Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 28 September 2021

Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Venue: Zoom

Purpose

- Advise Council on how to help grow a great and accessible City, where barriers to people with impairments are minimised.
- Bring lived experience and knowledge to Council around accessibility issues in the context of Council's roles and priorities.
- It is recognised that members come from and remain connected to their communities, it is from this foundation members share their expertise and lived experience in this advisory role, and engage with their communities and others as part of the wider council consultation processes. The expectations around this connection are set out in the Communication and Involvement of communities points below.

Attendance

Chairpersons:	Rachel Noble (Co-chair), Nick Ruane (Co-chair)
Members:	Alan Royal, Olivia Murphy, Stuart Mills, Amy Evanson, Solmaz Nazari Orakani
NZSL Interpreters:	Angela Murray, Rosie
Liaison Councillors:	Cr Rebecca Matthews
Others:	Sophie Jacques (Isthmus), Michael Chu (Isthmus)
WCC Staff:	Hedi Mueller (Senior Democracy Advisor), Melissa Wells (Senior Accessibility Advisor), Claire Pascoe (Accelerated Programme Lead), Yonas Yoseph (Project Manager Wellington Design Manual), Alisi Puloka (Democracy Advisor), Jenny Rains (Community Services Manager), James

Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 5:34pm.

1. Apologies were received from the following members:

- James Roberts – for lateness;
- Humphrey Hanley, Erikka Helliwell – for absence.

Nick moved to approve the previous meeting's minutes. Alan seconded this.

2. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Items

3. Lambton Quay Bus Interchange Design, *Presented by Sophie Jacques and Michael Chu.*

Sophie presented to the group Wellington City Council's project to redesign the Lambton Quay Bus Interchange that had been distributed with the agenda. Sophie highlighted that the project was to improve the safety of the bus interchange.

Sophie described aspects of the design catering to accessibility needs. These included using tactile surfaces running the length of the interchange, yellow pavers directing to each stop, and painted warning areas indicating locations of bus tail-swing. Sophie expressed the graphic design was not locked in, and so suggestions were welcome. Following the presentation, Sophie asked for question and feedback from the group.

Members asked if there has been an accessibility group review outside of the AAG, and an accessibility audit was encouraged by the group.

Members asked questions about the accessibility of the design for different groups. The positioning of benches was raised as a concern, and the distinguishing of colours due to high use of colour in the area design. Sophie suggested a main throughfare as a further consideration. Members noted, when designing with one specific group in mind, this can lead to issues for other groups.

Members asked questions regarding the communication of changes to the bus interchange due to the potential impacts on people's safety.

4. Bike Network Plan and Transitional Programme, *Presented by Claire Pascoe.*

Claire spoke to members about the new Bike Network plan, with a focus on the Transitional Programme, that had been distributed with the agenda. Claire expressed they wanted an early conversation with the AAG to talk about their future project involvement. Claire requested questions and feedback from group.

Members showed general support for the programme, mentioning that this will likely have positive accessibility impacts in removing wheel traffic from footpaths and reducing footpath congestion.

Members expressed some concerns regarding conflict between bike lanes and other infrastructure such as bus stops. Adelaide Road was specifically mentioned as the removal of parking to businesses was of concern. It was suggested mobility parks should be located away from cycleways due to accessibility needs. Members identified Newtown After Hours Medical Centre as a specific area of consideration during planning and implementation of the cycleway project.

Members brought to attention that disabled people are cyclists also, with normal and adapted bikes. It was suggested that contact with disabled cyclists to hear their point of view may be of interest.

5. Representation Review, *Presented by Sean Johnson.*

Sean explained the representation review process and purpose, and the results of the most-recent review. It has been decided that the number of elected members will increase by one due to the introduction of a dedicated Māori ward. Sean requested questions and feedback from the group.

Members raised questions about the format(s) communication of these changes will be delivered in, and whether these would be accessible. Members advised information should be delivered via as many accessible methods as possible. Sean informed members the information is currently presented as online text and expressed openness to discuss how things can be made more accessible, and made easier for people to vote.

Members suggest, in time, a discussion about disabled seats may be appropriate.

6. Councillor Matthews shared the following updates with the group:

- Congratulated Melissa on the permanence of their role. Mentioned this is a sign of change happening, and that Melissa is bringing about change.
- Noted accessibility has been brought up in a Councillor workshop without personal mention. Expressed this showed the organisation is being more proactive.

Hedi shared the following updates with the group:

- Payments from last month's meeting will be late as these required a physical manager's signature. These will be paid along with this month's payment.
- Asked if members prefer to receive their payslips via email or post. Members unanimously agreed to receive via email. Hedi will sort this with payment services.

Melissa shared the following updates with the group:

- Is working with urban design team and others across council on a design audit across the central city, starting with Te Aro park. They opened the idea of focus group on this topic.

- Currently writing event accessibility guidelines and hope to have these completed by the end of month. These will be able to be sent to external contractors.
- Will be running a focus group Thursday next week for deaf and disabled youth about the Youth Hub. 13- to 18-year-olds are encouraged to get in contact if they wish to be involved.
- Organised tactile stickers to be added to QR codes at council facilities to assist blind and low-vision users in scanning in with COVID Tracer app.

James shared the following updates with the group:

- Report to Council from AAG coming up shortly.

The following updates were also shared with the group:

- The Wellington City Council is addressing the issue of people camping on the corner of Manners Street. The person who set up the camp has been housed. In the next days, Council will be working on moving the individuals on.

7. AAG Members only time.

The meeting concluded at 7:26pm with a karakia by Cr Matthews.

Information

Next meeting date: 26/10/2021