

Your local voice



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Minutes of the WCCC General Meeting Wednesday, 26 October 2011

1. Meeting opened

Deputy Chair Pat McGinn opened the meeting at 7.35pm.
Twenty persons were present.

2. Apologies: Tom Anderson, Maisie Griffith, Tim Dalton, Lance Williamson

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous public meeting (September 2011) were read by the Secretary and accepted.
(Moved: Mal Ferguson; Seconded: Simon Hearder)

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

- A reply from Education Minister Andrew Barr to a letter from WCCC about moving classes from Weston Pre-School to Arawang has been received. The minister says that moving the class to Arawang has been delayed until the 2013 school year.
- With regard to the children's playground at Coleman Court, Rosemary Drabsch said that the barriers have been removed and tanbark put down, but there is no shadecloth.

5. Treasurer's Report

There Treasurer reported that there had been no change in WCCC's treasury since the last meeting, so funds still stand at \$5716.42.

6. Presentation by Kristin Blume, "Transport for Canberra"

(As the projector was not working, Ms Blume used her own computer to display her presentation.)

A draft transport strategy, "Transport for Canberra", has been prepared by the ACT Government and was launched on 10 October. Submissions on the draft strategy are due by 11 November, which does not give much time for community organisations to consider the draft strategy.

- This is the five-year review of the previous transport plan, which was prepared in 2004.
- The case for changing how we travel:
 - effort to reduce emissions
 - congestion on ACT roads
 - decline in physical activity by citizens
 - ageing population
 - need to balance transport investment
- Strategic Goals: To have a system that:
 - is integrated with land use planning
 - makes active travel like walking and cycling the easy way to get around
 - provides sustainable travel options, reduces transport emissions
 - is safe for moving people however they get around

- is accessible for everyone, whatever their level of mobility at any time or place
- is efficient and cost effective.
- The Frequent Network: With Canberra's centenary year in 2013, the government is planning changes to the bus network, and will carry out a broad-base review of bus services. The Transport Plan will establish a network of transport corridors. It is planned that in the future there will be a rapid service from Woden to Weston Creek to Molonglo to Belconnen. However, it may take ten years for this to be realised.
- Coverage services and accessibility:
 - It is important to connect group centres, town centres
 - Want a 30-minute frequency between Weston Creek and Woden
 - Want minimum wait time between connections
 - 2013 will be a big chance to completely revise bus timetables.
- Transport and Physical Activity:
 - There will be an effort to make services available within walk-able distance of residences.
 - Efforts will be made to manage parking demands; for example, time limits in parking areas.
 - Aim will be to improve public transport and encourage people to walk or cycle.
- The ACT Government will introduce new targets and standards for safety, land-use, sustainable transport.
 - My Way data will be very useful as it will give data on where people get on and get off, so that bus stops and pedestrian crossings can be improved.
- The government has funded a real-time passenger information system that will locate all buses and provide information. There will be some electronic displays at centres.
- The government is also planning to establish a Park N Ride network, with a parking area off Kirkpatrick Street.

Q: With major investment in rapid routes, how much will be left over to be used for route development?

A: Community networks that already exist, such as those linked to residences for the aged, will be reviewed.

Q: Better frequency could be created by analysing existing routes and aligning them. For example, surely timetables could be aligned so that buses that go through different suburbs of Weston Creek and then go through Cooleman Court to Woden could be staggered so that there is a bus to Woden every fifteen minutes, instead of four buses all within ten minutes?

A: Will suggest this to ACTION.

Q: There is no MyWay store in Woden except for Canberra Connect. If a person has no credit card, MyWay tickets cannot be recharged on line. Furthermore, if a person has a concession, that person MUST go to a MyWay shop to recharge.

Q: In Melbourne there is a \$4 ticket for over-60s, to go anywhere, anytime.

A: The MyWay fare structure is very competitive, with a 50% off-peak concession and a daily cap.

Q: Will transport corridors with high-density housing along them bring problems because people living in that housing will find the noise, dust, etc irritation? Would it be better to have medium density housing near group centres?

Q: Will there be bus lanes on Hindmarsh Drive?

Q: Will ACTION put bus stops outside tourist sites and public buildings such as Questacon, the National Gallery, the Legislative Assembly?

Submissions on the Transport Strategy are due by 11 November 2011. There will be an exhibition at the Legislative Assembly Building on Saturday 29 October from 1 to 3pm, and on Monday, 31 October, from 12 to 1.30 and 6 to 8pm. Anyone who would like to comment can use the WCCC website or the ACT government's "Time to Talk" website.

The Acting Chairman thanked those in attendance and closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 30 November 2011, at 8.00pm