

Sustainable Transport Coalition WA

Annual Report 2001-02

The Sustainable Transport Coalition is a non-government, not-for-profit organisation supporting sustainable transport solutions. This report summarises the Coalition's work over the 2001-02 financial year.

Coalition for change

Transport has a significant and ongoing effect on our lives - connecting people and places and moving goods and services. Most travel is done by private motor vehicles and our increasing dependence on cars and trucks is impacting on our quality of life. Perth's air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, road infrastructure costs and impacts of new roads, social disadvantage and declining physical activity show that being so reliant on motor vehicles is not sustainable.

The Sustainable Transport Coalition formed in March 2001 to promote sustainable transport by bringing community stakeholders together, supporting community action and advocating reform. The Coalition came out of a research and consultation project by the Conservation Council of WA looking at ways to strengthen community advocacy for balanced transport. People in community groups, non-government organisations and local government wanted a coalition to progress action, so the Coalition came into being.

The Sustainable Transport Coalition seeks more sustainable and liveable communities where people are less dependent upon the car and have better access to travel alternatives. We seek a transport system and land use pattern that facilitates access, protects the environment and promotes community.

To this end the Coalition works to:

- Develop and advocate policy and action for sustainable transport
- Promote community awareness
- Involve people in taking action to make changes
- Research and lobby on issues of concern
- Monitor policy and performance of government
- Network with others, seek support and raise funds.

Activities and achievements

Building membership and support was the prime focus for the Coalition, it has also been active influencing policy and funding decisions. A summary of activities and achievements follows.

Building the Coalition

To have credibility and to get things done a Coalition needs members and supporters, so this has been a priority. The Sustainable Transport Officers and Convenor have contacted numerous people through meetings, phone calls, emails and a mail-out to encourage their participation. A brochure was produced promoting the Coalition and including an application form. In May the Coalition accepted

applications from ten organisations to become members, including the Bicycle Transport Alliance, two bicycle user groups, Conservation Council and five local councils. 23 individuals or organisations were accepted as supporters, including several Members of State Parliament.

The Coalition also adopted a constitution defining its purpose, membership and management arrangements, and decided to seek incorporation.

Work on other funding opportunities included investigating grants and possible sponsorship. A grant application was prepared with the Conservation Council seeking a Lotteries Commission social research grant to fund research on representation of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users - but this was not successful.

Sustainable Transport Officers

The Conservation Council secured three years' funding to employ a Sustainable Transport Officer, starting February 2002 with Olivia Hertsted and David Wake sharing the job (Olivia left in May to take up a full-time position). A major part of their work has been supporting the Coalition to develop its membership and take an active role on transport issues. The position will continue to provide invaluable assistance to the Coalition.

South-west railway

The State Government announced in July 2001 that the south-west metropolitan railway would be routed along the Kwinana Freeway into the city, rather than via Kenwick. The Coalition supported the plan but noted the need to integrate land uses and bus services with the new line to get the best result.

The city alignment of the railway was the subject of debate, and the State Government established an advisory committee to consider options. The Coalition made a submission to the committee in April raising issues that should be taken into account. In June the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure announced that the William Street alignment would be followed.

Freight Network Review

The Freight Network Review was a major initiative by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure to resolve issues concerning freight transport, including increasing heavy freight traffic to Fremantle port and the proposed extension of the Roe Highway to link with Fremantle. Stakeholder involvement and dialogue was used to review issues and seek solutions to manage freight transport in metropolitan Perth. The Coalition was invited to participate, and had representation on the policy taskforce and in the Freight Planning Congresses and Roe Highway workshops.

Roe Highway and alternatives to the Fremantle Eastern Bypass were recognised as 'hotspots' that needed attention. A multi-criteria analysis was undertaken to consider options and criteria raised by industry, government and community interests. The Coalition, Conservation Council, local community groups and others provided input. The analysis recommended the extension of Roe Highway to the Kwinana Freeway (stage 7) but no further west (stage 8), avoiding the bushland between North and Bibra Lakes. The upgrading of Leach Highway or South Street and Stock Road was recommended to accommodate freight and general traffic.

The review also looked at broader freight transport issues. Recommendations include designation of on-road freight routes, better land use planning to reduce impacts, improving rail infrastructure to increase rail's share of the freight task and developing intermodal facilities. Freight transport will continue to be an important issue given increasing freight task. A position paper on freight is being prepared for the Coalition by the Sustainable Transport Officers.

Sodium cyanide transport

Australian Gold Reagents proposes the transport of solid sodium cyanide from its Kwinana plant to Fremantle port by truck, from where it will be shipped interstate or overseas. This proposal raises safety concerns given the toxic nature of the product and the potential of an incident if transport by road, and would add to road freight to the port at a time when moves are being made to reduce heavy truck traffic.

The Coalition commented on the proposal in the media, pointing out that the proposal is at odds with efforts to reduce road freight to the port. This included a joint media statement in April with the Peter Tagliaferri, Mayor of the City of Fremantle. The Environmental Protection Authority recommended in favour of the proposal. The Coalition wrote to the Minister for the Environment opposing road transport and supporting the appeal by the Conservation Council over the EPA report.

Funding sustainable transport

The Coalition commented on funding for cycling, public transport and TravelSmart at the time of the State Budget in May. In a media statement before the budget it urged commitment to balanced, sustainable transport in the budget. Unfortunately the budget included a \$6M cut to the TravelSmart program and the impact on the Perth Bicycle Network program was not clear. Interpreting the budget papers proved difficult. The Coalition has asked for clarification of program funding and asked that a budget briefing be held next year. It is also looking to make a submission to influence the next budget.

The TravelSmart program was criticised in the media and by the Treasurer as a wasteful program. The Coalition spoke out for the program pointing to its positive impact in reducing car use through behaviour change - the sort of initiative we need to extend to make sustainable transport a reality.

Committees and submissions

The Coalition participated in a number of State Government policy advisory forums including the WA Rail Advisory Council, Steering Committee for the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus Trial and Freight Network Review policy taskforce. Submissions were made on the review of the National Road Transport Commission Act, City of Fremantle's draft transport strategy, Future Perth working paper on transport, the city route for the south-west metropolitan railway and on bicycle storage on WA Government Railway bus services.

Key dates

A list of key dates, including meetings and milestones, follows.

25 July	Meeting with Hon. Michelle Roberts MLA Minister assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure: discussed proposed 50km/h speed limit,
27 July	General Meeting: talk by Bruce Aulabaugh ERM on end-of-trip facilities for cyclists

	in the Perth CBD
23 August	Annual General Meeting and General Meeting: talk by Steve Piotrowski on the Future Perth strategic transport evaluation project
3 September	Meeting with Hon. Alannah MacTiernan MLA Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
27 September	Committee Meeting: discussed priorities for the Coalition's work
23 October	General Meeting: talk by Roe Branco of North Lake Residents Association about the Roe Highway extension
27 October	Freight Planning Congress: convened by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Coalition representatives participated
5 November	Walk Week seminar: talk by David Bennett at local government and community seminar on advocating greener transport
29 November	Committee Meeting: discussion with Rosemary Spiedel of the Cycling Promotion Fund
6 December	General Meeting: discussed current issues
8 January	Committee Meeting: discussed ways to build the coalition's support base
18 February	Sustainable Transport Officers start work at the Conservation Council
7 March	Committee Meeting: discussed matters open for comment
21 May	Committee Meeting: discussed the State Budget and membership drive
28 May	General Meeting: talk by Lance Chambers of the Department for Planning and Infrastructure about the Freight Network Review
15 June	Freight Planning Congress: convened by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure to conclude the Freight Network Review, Coalition representatives participated

Committee

The Coalition's committee plays a key role in managing and developing the organisation. Members of the committee for 2001-02 were:

Dr David Bennett - Convenor

Natural resource management consultant with extensive experience in academia, government and the private sector. Enjoys living in Fremantle and cycling and using public transport wherever possible.

David Worth - Deputy Convenor

Manages an internet services business and is completing his doctorate in sociology.

Dr Ian Alexander

Community activist active on transport issues; lobbied against the Northbridge Tunnel and multi-storey car parking in Fremantle. Former member of State Parliament and academic in geography and urban planning fields.

Dr Miles Dracup

Keen cyclist, member of the Subiaco Bicycle User Group and board member for the Bicycle Transportation Alliance. Agricultural scientist by profession.

Keith Jones

Member of the Railway Technical Society of Australia. Takes a keen interest in issues concerning passenger and rail freight.

Gerald Kirk

Regular public transport user who wants to see services improve.

David Wake

Sustainable Transport Officer with the Conservation Council of WA, formerly coordinated the Smogbusters program. Outer urban resident and public transport user.

Gail White

Promotions Manager with experience in advertising, marketing, performance reviews and contracting. She is keen to see Perth become a more liveable city.

Financial statement

The Coalition's funds are held by the Conservation Council of WA. To date the Coalition's expenses have been covered by the Conservation Council. The Coalition levied a subscription for members and supporters from May 2002 and this was the primary source of income during the year.

The Coalition's work is supported by the Sustainable Transport Officers. Funding for this position is administered and accounted for by the Conservation Council. In the 2001-02 year grant payments for the position totaled \$42,857.20.

A financial statement for the period 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 is attached.

Sustainable Transport Coalition WA

Financial Statement 2001-02

<i>Opening balance</i>	\$0
<i>Income</i>	
Subscriptions	\$920.00
Donations	\$200.00
Total	\$1120.00
<i>Expenditure</i>	
Administration Fees	\$10.00
<i>Balance</i>	\$1110.00

Sustainable Transport Coalition
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