



MINUTES

FRASER COAST MARY TO BAY RAIL TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, 77 TAVISTOCK STREET
7 SEPTEMBER, 2023 COMMENCING AT 4.00PM

PRESENT:

- Cr David Lewis (Chair)
- Cr Phil Truscott
- Tracey Genrich, Manager Community Development & Engagement FCRC
- Davendra Naidu – Director Infrastructure Services FCRC
- Martin Simons – General Manager FCTE
- Max Voigt – Fraser Coast Bugs Representative
- John Williams – Fraser Coast Wildlife Preservation Society Representative
- Steve Case – Fraser Coast Cycling representative
- Alan Whyborn – community representative
- Andy Riley – community representative
- Craig England – Manager - Rail Corridor Management - Department of Transport & Main Roads
- Martin O'Connor – Rail Corridor Management, Department of Transport and Main Roads

APOLOGIES

- Ken Diehm – Chief Executive Officer FCRC (Guest apology)
- Gerard Carlyon – Director Development & Community FCRC (Guest Apology)

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

David McLeod – Fraser Coast Bicycle User Group;
Keith Parsons – FCRC Director Organisational Services

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement to Country

David welcomed all attendees and delivered an Acknowledgement to Country on behalf of the Advisory Committee.

2. Apologies

A full list of apologies is listed above.

3. Previous Meeting – Action List

The Committee reviewed the Action List of items from previous meetings. The action list has been updated to reflect comments and updates provided at the meeting and is attached in its updated version.

4. Agenda Items

1. Discussion on potential creation of M2BRT User Group (FCBUGs)

Max Voigt advised that the FCBUGs group were currently the volunteer based community group that were providing on the ground works to open up additional sections of the Rail Trail project. Given that the Rail Trail is a community project for a wider section of the community than just bike users, FCBUGs would suggest exploring if an alternative management model should be considered going forward.

Max tabled a document prepared by Atherton Tablelands in 2015 which indicated, amongst other options, that at the time, the preferred model for Atherton was that the local government were a player in a management structure. Max suggested that this document be circulated to all members of the M2BRTAC for their information.

Craig England advised that it was his understanding that the model preferred in 2015 had not been continued due to a number of factors and was no longer in operation.

Alan Whyborn asked if persons wishing to volunteer on the ground needed to be members of the FCBUGs group, to which Max confirmed that would be the case.

David Lewis suggested the matter of ongoing management models may be best addressed in the future, giving the M2BRTAC an opportunity to work through a range of issues and opportunities.

Following discussion the M2BRTAC agreed that this item should be revisited in approximately 6 months time.

Action – Tracey Genrich to place this item on the Action List for further discussion in 6 months.

Action – Tracey Genrich to share a copy of the Atherton Tablelands document with all members of the Advisory Committee.

- #### 2. Discussion – Future FCRC Budget Allocations (New Item introduced by David Lewis), Item 4.2 - Discussion on Crossing solutions for Stockyard Creek/Blackswamp Creek and Item 4.3 – Suggestion to form a working group – future implementation (*this 3 items were all dealt with as part of a combined discussion by the Advisory Committee and therefore have been combined into 1 item for the purposes of the Minutes*)

David suggested that as a number of the next Agenda items were linked to budget requirements, that the Advisory Committee be provided with an update on what budget allocations were provided for in Council's budget, either operational and/or capital.

Davendra commented that the \$200,000 previously allocated was directly linked to revenue received as part of the Works for Queensland funded project off Walker Street.

Keith confirmed that to his knowledge there was no ongoing funding provided in Council's 10 year capital budget due to the last round of budget deliberations which have been influenced by industry issues including extended project periods and significant cost escalations for all Council projects. Noting that projects that had undefined allocations were removed.

Keith advised that there is to be a mid year budget review of the 2023/2024 budget and that it would be ideal if the M2BRTAC could provide some recommendations to Council on a specific project that it would be seeking budget and/or funding for. This would allow Council to consider a specific project relating to the Rail Trail in lieu of previously undefined amounts.

General discussion was had by the group on the Ann Street crossing works, being undertaken by Council and partly funded through the state government's cycle network funding.

Max requested if input could be obtained from Advisory Committee prior to implementation of further works in the urban rail trail sections.

Davendra suggested that it may be helpful if representatives of the Fraser Coast Bicycle Users Group could attend a site walk with Davendra and appropriate members of his staff to assess signage requirements and also to discuss how to protect the sealed area adjacent to the cemetery from vehicle traffic. FCBUGs would nominate a suitable representative to liaise with regarding scheduling this onsite discussion.

A detailed discussion was had by the members of the M2BRTAC in relation to the design and future implementation of crossings for Stockyard Creek and Black Swamp Creek. This discussion included, but was not necessarily limited to:-

- the standard of work required to meet short term priorities versus longer term maintenance and ultimate design;
- Action items included within the Queensland government's *Queensland Cycling Action Plan 2023-2025*;
- preparation of a draft design for Black Swamp Creek;
- Feedback/input from persons who regularly use and/or ride other rail trail with significant creek crossings; and
- type and suitability of potential alternative materials.

David Lewis referred to setting up an "ad hoc" working group to consider alternative options for the various missing links of the trail. It was agreed that, at this stage, the working group would only consider the Stockyard Creek/Black Swamp Creek sections.

Following the discussion the group agreed that, given the complexity of the discussion, it should be taken offline with a report to be brought back to the Advisory Committee.

Tracey Genrich asked Advisory Committee members who would be interested in attending a meeting to specifically discuss the crossings in more detail. Interest was indicated by Alan Whyborn, Max Voigt (who would nominate 2 FBUGs representatives), Craig England and Andy Riley.

Action – Tracey Genrich to coordinate a meeting between Davendra Naidu (who will nominate any other Infrastructure Services officers required to attend), Alan Whyborn, Max Voigt, Craig England and Andy Riley as soon as practical.

Action – Davendra Naidu to prepare a draft concept plan relating to Black Swamp Creek crossing for discussion at the meeting.

Action – Max Voigt to nominate a representative of FCBUGs to attend an onsite discussion, at the newly finished Walker Street section of the Rail Trail with Davendra Naidu and other appropriate staff of Infrastructure Services.

3. Dealt with above.

4. Update Maryborough/Hervey Bay Road Crossing, Nikenbah - DTMR

Craig England advised that he had spoken to the Main Roads regional team in relation to potential for a level crossing option for the crossing of Maryborough/Hervey Bay Road at Nikenbah. At this point the Department have informally advised that they would not support this option due to conflict with overtaking lane etc.

Craig confirmed that he was currently waiting on a formal response from the regional team and would then provide that information back to the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee discussed whether this item could be referred to Council's Traffic Advisory Committee. It was agreed to wait until a response was received from DTMR and if necessary then raise the item for discussion with the Traffic Advisory Committee.

5. Safety – Vehicle & Motorbike Access to Rail Trail – FCRC/FCBUGs

Tracey Genrich advised that she had recently been contacted by a member of the public who had been involved in a negative interaction with motorbike riders on the Trail near the Takura trail head. Tracey also confirmed that concerns had also been raised during a recent discussion with Dave McLeod of FCBUGs in relation to motorbike riders accessing the Trail in the same vicinity.

David McLeod advised that he had contacted Council in relation to 2 trees that were on the ground and blocking off Leo's Road and therefore encouraging motorbike riders to use the rail trail to access the state government land on the western side of the trail.

Tracey confirmed that this matter had been investigated by Council's Infrastructure Services who advised that it was their understanding that the trees were not located within the Leo's Road road reserve, however, given that this section of Leo's road is an unformed road that the trees would not be removed.

Craig England commented that access to rail trail by motorbike riders and other unauthorised users was an ongoing issue with all trails and it was an issue that would need to be continually monitored, supported by an education program, appropriate signage and, if needed, reports of unsafe and/or unauthorised use through to either 000 or Policelink, dependent on the nature of the concern.

The Advisory Committee discussed this issue at length with the agreed outcomes being that investigation into the development and installation of suitable signage advising of prohibited activities and details of who to contact should an instance occur. Signage should be considered particularly around the trail head areas, including Walligan near Stockyard creek.

Action – Tracey Genrich to review the signage schedule prepared by the Signage Working Group and source quotations for appropriate signage in addition to source budget for the procurement and installation of such signage. Another meeting of the Signage Working Group will also be scheduled to discuss signage issues at Piggford Lane end as well.

Action – Tracey Genrich to followup with Open Space & Environment in relation to the shelter that was removed recently.

6. **Report on 26 August Opening Event – 11klm Takura to Colton section - FCBUGs**

Max Voigt gave a verbal report on the opening event held on 26 August, 2023.

- Over 300 people in attendance;
- Participants included local bike riders, riders from Gladstone & Brisbane;
- Appreciation to Jess Cook from Council's communications team for Council support;

Max confirmed that the Department of Transport and Main Roads have now issued a 10 year operating licence will allow FCBUGs to operate and maintain this section of the trail for a 10 year period.

Martin Simons advised that he had received some feedback about the surface of the trail. The Group discussed this item generally.

7. **Report on progress of any Tenure negotiations for the Colton Mine Lease to Maryborough section of the Rail Trail - FCBUGs**

Tracey Genrich advised that to her knowledge there had not been any progress in relation to resolution of tenure negotiations for the remaining undeveloped sections of the trail and that no contact had been received from the owners of the Colton Coal Mining Lease for over 12 months.

Tracey also confirmed that the sections of trail that have areas that will need either tenure negotiations or alternative paths have been identified in the previous works undertaken as part of the Trail Development Plan in 2019.

Keith Parsons also advised that should the M2BRTAC wish Council to prioritise progression of tenure negotiations he would need to consider the availability of staff and budget allocations and provide a response back to the M2BRTAC.

Action – Council to provide a report back to the M2BRTAC identifying the locations of any unresolved tenure issues, options for resolution and how Council can implement resolution of these issues.

8. **EOI for Membership – Desley O'Grady (Rail Trails Australia Representative)**

Cr David Lewis confirmed that the current Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee includes the ability of the Advisory Committee to invite additional non-voting members to join the Committee at its discretion.

Cr Lewis also advised that he had placed a call with Desley O'Grady from Rail Trails Australia (Gladstone) to gauge interest in participating in the Advisory Committee as a non-voting member.

Action – Tracey Genrich to send a letter to Rail Trail Australia inviting them to consider and put forward a nomination for a non-voting member of the Mary to Bay Rail Trail Advisory Committee.

9. **Advertising Protocols – Andy Riley**

Andy Riley talked in relation to advertising of the recent opening and about feedback and/or contact that she received in relation to motorcycles, e-scooters etc.

The Advisory Committee spoke at length about e-bikes and e-scooters in general.

5. **General Business**

Max Voigt advised that FCBUGs had submitted a funding application for \$50,000, for upgrading gullies in the 11km Takura to Colton Mine section, to the Gambling Benefit fund which was unfortunately unsuccessful. The application has been submitted to the second round of that funding for consideration.

Tracey Genrich confirmed that the \$20,000 operational funding request for FCBUGs had been approved in the 2023/2024 Council budget and had been processed. Tracey will followup release of those funds.

Max Voigt suggested that Workshop documentation from the December meeting of the M2BRTAC be circulated to all members again and included as an Agenda item for the next meeting of the Advisory Committee.

Action – Tracey Genrich to circulate a copy of the December Workshop documentation to all members of the Group and include this as an Agenda item for the next meeting.

Craig England confirmed that the Department of Transport and Main Roads are keen to progress Rail Trail projects and that this Advisory Committee should work with Council to identify a future project for submission to the Department for funding.

6. Next Meeting

9 November, 2023 – 4pm

The meeting closed at 6.05pm.