

Theme 4. Efficient Road Network



Our Objective

To develop a one network approach that supports connectivity for the movement of people and goods within and beyond the Northern Beaches and that can be safely shared by all users.

Background

Our current road network is congested adding to delays that impact our quality of life, economic viability and the way we move around.

Our one network approach complements our public transport and active travel networks. (see Figure 8)

Supporting the Beaches Link Tunnel and other road infrastructure for public transport improves the efficiency of the network.

It also gets the balance right across all users, assisting road safety, new autonomous cars and other emerging road technologies.

Working with the NSW Government to manage roads as one network is the key to achieving these directions and improved traffic information, management, signalling and traffic light coordination.

Implementing The Strategy

- Road Network Plan (2019)
- Freight Plan (2020)
- Northern Beaches Road Safety Plan (2019)

“ Roads should support public transport, industry and necessary private car journeys. Cars are still an important part of our transport network and have a role to play. Improving the transport network includes more sustainable upgrades to road infrastructure. ²⁴ ”

²⁴ Community Quotes from people supporting public transport

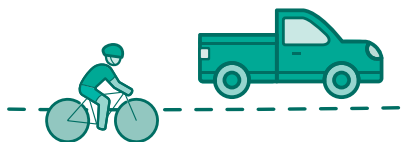
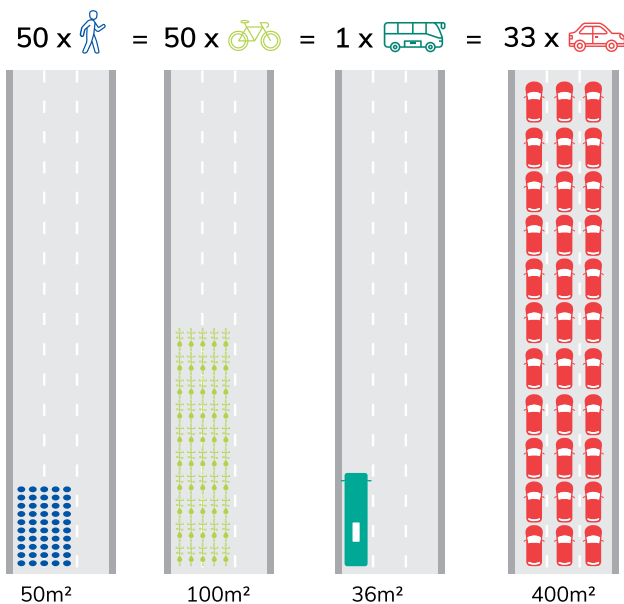


Figure 7: Space Occupied by 50 people

While a bus needs three times as much space as a car, its carrying capacity per lane is unrivaled among other on-street modes. As land in urban areas becomes increasingly scarce, it will be necessary to use the space within the street more efficiently to serve the largest number of people.



Community Attitudes about Accessible and Liveable Places

- People were prepared to switch to public transport and active travel to reduce congestion on the roads if it was safe, convenient and more efficient.
- Commuting times were a primary concern as a result of congestion and poor management of the road network.
- Build the Beaches Tunnel link and provide access for B-Line buses.
- Autonomous vehicles were supported if research demonstrates safety and efficiency concerns can be addressed.

Our Road Network Future Directions

1. **Support the delivery of the Beaches Link Tunnel subject to the inclusion of public transport and minimise the overall impact on our local residents.**
2. Advocate for the full delivery of the Mona Vale road upgrade by 2023.
3. Advocate for the widening and flood proofing of the Wakehurst Parkway by 2023.
4. Prioritise major road corridors for freight, public transport and active travel to support the efficient movement of people and goods, reducing the impact on local roads and residents.
5. Support programs to change road user behaviour to improve the safety and efficiency of the network.
6. Return residential streets to the local residents through better network management, including investment in technology and staff to identify opportunities to reduce congestion on the network.
7. Use real time traffic data to improve the efficiency and resilience of the road network.
8. Support smart innovations in vehicle technology and alternative car ownership models.

What will this look like in 2038?

- A fourth road connects the Northern Beaches to Sydney - Beaches Link Tunnel and includes dedicated public transport lanes
- Mona Vale Road and Wakehurst Parkway is two lanes in both directions
- Traffic flow is improved and works are better coordinated across the network
- Our road network is more efficient and supports less cars with dedicated bus lanes on major corridors.