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Department of Transport and Main Roads Project Team

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Dear Team

RE: Feedback on the Draft Southern Sunshine Coast Public Transport Strategy

Introduction

The Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of residents (OSCAR) welcomes the interest the State Government is taking in Public Transport for the Sunshine Coast. We are pleased to see the publication of the *Draft Southern Sunshine Coast Public Transport Strategy* (the Strategy) and your call for feedback.

OSCAR is a non-partisan and not-for-profit umbrella/peak organisation covering resident and community organisations on the Sunshine Coast and Noosa local government areas (LGAs) in South East Queensland.

OSCAR currently has 40+ member groups from Pumicestone Passage to Noosa and from the Coast to the hinterland and ranges.

OSCAR aims to support member organisations by:

1. Advocating to local and state government and the public on policy issues that are of regional significance and of concern to our members;
2. Acting to resolve issues of strategic or region-wide relevance that are referred by member organisations;
3. Representing the member organisations on region-wide matters of interest to the community;
4. Maintaining awareness and responsiveness through frequent and regular ordinary meetings and dialogue with member organisations; and
5. Practising professional, honest and ethical conduct.

OSCAR's comments on the Draft Southern Sunshine Coast Transport Strategy

While generally supportive of the contents of the draft Strategy, we do have several serious concerns that we would like to draw to your attention:

- The Strategy is not region-wide. An approach to public transport on the Sunshine Coast needs to be a whole of region one and should not focus on just one part of the Sunshine Coast. We need more than a north-south emphasis along the coastal corridor with greater regard being paid to east-west connectivity. Travel between Noosa and the Sunshine Coast is also not addressed despite the significant vehicle movements between the two LGAs each day.

One of the Region-making projects of The Sunshine Coast Regional Council and supported by the State Government is the expansion of the Sunshine Coast Airport. Traffic to and from the airport originates from both north and south of the airport. This draft strategy does not contribute anything within a defined time-frame for this region-wide activity.

- The Strategy assumes a "spinal" transport system for the coastal corridor from Maroochydore to Caloundra rather than the "grid" network that is required. We are a decentralized community and this Strategy does not place enough emphasis on east to west travel or travel north of the Maroochy River. We need a Strategy that recognises this reality and proposes a solution that links the David Low Way, Sunshine Motorway and the Bruce Highway as well as linking Noosa to Brisbane.
- The strategy falls short as a **regional solution** as it does not include the **Northern Corridor**.
 - We support the Strategy concerning the **Western Corridor**.

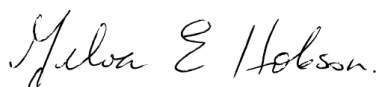
- We support the **Centre Corridor** Strategy but only if delivered in the first stage Beerwah to Maroochydore and then stage 2 to the Sunshine Coast Airport. We do not support CAMCOS as a "staged implementation".
- We support a flexible public transport system for the **Coastal Corridor** that can grow and adapt as the population increases. We do not support a Mass Transit system that requires fixed and inflexible infrastructure as proposed by the SCRC in their Options Analysis Report, - i.e. Light rail (with or without wires), trackless trams or a rapid bus network. We do not support the densification of this corridor to justify such infrastructure, or the promise of such infrastructure to justify densification unless a suitable public transport solution is delivered first.
- We support the Strategy concerning the **Key Connectors**. Many of the features described in this component of the Strategy reflect our attached presentation for public transport on the Coast – particularly express services, extended hours of operation and increased route frequencies.
- The Strategy seems to align very closely to what the Sunshine Coast Regional Council (SCRC) put forward through their Mass Transit Options Analysis. The Council's Option Analysis strongly supported light rail – without actually calling it that -even though that was not supported by a majority of the community.
- There is no suggestion of staging other improvements to public transport. It appears to us that we have a "mass transit" on the coastal corridor or nothing approach.
- We would like advice on what timing and funding are proposed to investigate the Strategy further.
- Many of the options that are mentioned in the Strategy could be implemented now – eg
 - 30-minute services to the hinterland areas (currently about mostly 2 hourly intervals)
 - Better Sunshine Coast Airport and Sunshine Coast University connections.
 Why does the Strategy not propose a trial of one or more of these options in the short term as we are suggesting in our attached presentation?
- Densification and changed parking arrangements seem to be the requirement for all of this to happen. What if these aspirations are not achieved? Does this mean an extension of paid parking? More importantly, perhaps, does it mean we will have densification before the necessary transport infrastructure is in place to support higher density residential development? If this is the case traffic and public transport on the Sunshine Coast is going to get worse, not better in the future.

Conclusion

In response to Council's consultation re the Mass Transit project, OSCAR made similar comments as above. We went into considerable detail in that response and feel that that submission is relevant to the draft Strategy being discussed in this instance. We have attached that submission to this response.

Following the Mass Transit consultation OSCAR made a presentation to the Council's Transport Community Reference Group (CRG) requesting Council make representations to the State Government in relation to the State undertaking some trials of Express Bus services along some routes on the Sunshine Coast and into Noosa LGA. We have also attached this presentation on PT as part of our submission as referred to above.

Yours sincerely



Melva Hobson PSM

President OSCAR

Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents

2 Attachments