

Meeting Notes



Transport
Roads & Traffic
Authority

MARCH 2011

Additional crossing of the Clarence River at Grafton

COMMUNITY FORUM

3 March 2011

6pm to 8pm

On Thursday 3 March 2011 two community forums were held, one in the afternoon and one in the evening at the Grafton Community Centre, with presentations by the Project Manager followed by questions and answers.

More than 110 people attended the forums.

The forums discussed three key areas:

- Community feedback from the postal survey.
- Methodology to short list community options.
- Development and delivery of the telephone survey.

Presentation notes are available on the project website.

Questions, comments and responses made at the forum have been captured broadly below.

With the approval of the attendees, the sessions were videoed. For the full presentation, community discussion and question and answer details please view the recordings available on the project website.

QUESTION/COMMENT	RESPONSE
Does the heavy vehicle study take into consideration the recent impact of the January 2011 flood event and the Pacific Highway closure and traffic issues at that time?	No, the heavy vehicle study was compiled from traffic data in August 2010. The RTA is, however, aware of the impact of closures of the Pacific Highway and the issues it causes.
Was the heavy vehicle study carried out over 24 hours over 7 days?	There were three data gathering components – a tube count over 7 days to count traffic, an Origin-Destination Survey which was a video number plate match between 5am-7pm over 1

QUESTION/COMMENT	RESPONSE
	day, and a questionnaire from heavy vehicle companies.
Does the heavy vehicle study consider the next 10 years? Does it consider Casino as a transport hub?	The heavy vehicle study 2011 was an analysis of current conditions as at August 2010. The next part of the project will predict future volumes, including considerations of any plans for Casino and further to the north.
Suggestion that we would like a discussion on ways to manage existing traffic congestion.	Noted.
Can you give an assurance that Pacific Highway Wells Crossing to Iluka Pacific Highway project will go ahead? This will change heavy vehicle patterns. Grafton bridge project be impacted by this. Most heavy vehicle traffic from Casino will then go towards Evans Head and down the new Pacific Highway.	Planning for Wells Crossing to Iluka has been completed and the corridor will be preserved. This is part of the ongoing Pacific Highway upgrade plan. Noted.
Would like discussion on Community Liaison Plan and project objectives.	Noted.
Heavy vehicle study – concern over Heavy Vehicle Counts done on one Thursday only. What was the date of traffic counts? Was it school holidays?	The Origin-Destination Survey was completed on a Thursday and the tube count was completed for a whole week in mid-late August 2010.
Presentation 1 – Community Feedback from the postal survey	
20 from 97 attendees of U3A meeting in the middle of February received the Community Update – why only that many? How many were distributed and why such a gap?	8000 questionnaires were distributed around Clarence Valley, with an additional 1500 distributed at the staffed displays. Distribution of the community updates which included the questionnaire included mail box drops, newspaper inserts and was made available to RTA project website. Notification of the survey was also provided by radio and newspaper advertising and variable message signage.
3 surveys received at one household.	Noted.
We live between K and L options and didn't receive one. Many residents say they did not receive the community update, were not aware of the options or the staffed displays.	The aim was to get a broad distribution of the community update. The RTA will take comments on board and seek better distribution in the future.
How do you deal with the fact that an option goes over my roof? Option L – can you	We need to include everyone in the process. We look at the impacts and aim to be inclusive

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'weed out' the people affected?	in the consultation process.
When will the percentages of support for A-M survey responses be released?	This will be contained in a detailed postal survey report that is planned to be available to the community at end March. This report won't be available before the phone survey or the next forum.
Many of the 41 suggestions are around option M – why waste time looking at all these when M is the most popular.	More information is still to come and all views have been taken into account.
What has the RTA been discussing with Clarence Valley Council?	We keep council informed on the status of the project.
How will you treat the anonymous submissions?	As we are not aware of where they are located we cannot identify their preferred option relative to their location.
<p>At a meeting on 17 August 2010 regarding the Community Liaison Plan, a unanimous vote indicated where people wanted the bridge.</p> <p>The Clarence Valley Council also asked the RTA to survey the people of Grafton as to where they want the bridge.</p> <p>This information on the preferences of where people want to bridge should be available now, and before the next forum and survey.</p>	<p>This information will be in a detailed postal survey report. There is a lot of information to report back on. The survey closed on 8 February, but submissions were still being received to 28 February.</p> <p>The survey is about obtaining community views.</p>
When all the information for the surveys is released, can there be a community meeting?	Yes
<p>Will we get a report that narrows down the options based on costings etc?</p> <p>It should not be a voting competition.</p>	<p>The detailed postal survey report, that should be available at the end of March, will contain the feedback received on the survey forms and won't be reducing options.</p> <p>Technical investigations will discuss further information later in the process.</p>
We purchased a property in the vicinity of Option J and were told 12 months ago that this area would not be considered, but now it is on the table. We have just renovated the property and our life savings are in jeopardy. Questions should be answered truthfully.	Noted.
<p>With regards to the map showing the 41 suggested options, the map is distorted.</p> <p>This map shows suggestions to areas that should not be touched or possible e.g Susan Island.</p>	The map is a schematic diagram showing 41 suggestions. We have not tried to analyse suggestions received from the postal survey. Our commitment was to include all feedback in the assessment process.

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I have walked from Butter Factory Lane to North Street. There are no homes there that would be affected. Use area near North Street – no housing acquisitions. I have a newspaper article dated 26 June 1977 regarding a new bridge.	Appreciate your comments.
Will costing be taken into consideration of other projects?	RTA takes into consideration a wide range of factors.
How far will you short list down before you undertake geotechnical investigations?	More investigations and geotechnical data will be undertaken further down the track. It's a continuous data gathering process.
Presentation 2 – Methodology to short list community options.	
It is important to consider the health impacts of diesel fumes.	Air quality impacts will be included as part of the decision making process.
I would like to suggest an additional method – consider not building a bridge, by considering demand management. There are many measures that we can implement to reduce congestion.	Noted.
<p>Is there an opportunity to provide written comment on the short-listing process?</p> <p>Who will be doing the short-listing?</p> <p>Why have the project objectives changed from the 2003/04 process? Please upload the short listing of localities workshop report 2003/04 report to the public.</p>	<p>The project objectives have been re-worded, but the overall intent is the same. We will provide more information on the previous project objectives and look to put these on the project website including previous reports.</p> <p>With regard to the short-listing process, the RTA will do the first filter shortlist and take these to the community workshop to reduce to a final short list before carrying out detailed studies.</p> <p>A value management workshop will then be carried out as an input into the identification of a recommended preferred option. Methods 2 and 3 will have an initial feasibility analysis by RTA.</p>
Will the existing bridge still be available for cars?	Yes
<p>Why was Summerland Way taken out of the project objectives?</p> <p>Can the 2004 objectives re reinstated?</p> <p>Can the response to project objectives be given at next meeting?</p>	<p>Comment taken on board regarding objectives and response will be put on website.</p> <p>The December 2010 community update requested comment on objectives. No responses were received from this, but they are now being received from the forums and will be taken on board in light of the</p>

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	<p>comments received.</p> <p>Objective feedback will be followed up for next forum.</p>

Presentation 3 – Development and delivery of the telephone survey.	
500 surveys seems small. Will it be 500 completed or attempted surveys?	<p>500 completed surveys. The independent organisation carrying out the survey has indicated 500 is very representative and provides a high level of confidence.</p> <p>The company may be required to undertake 1200 calls in order to get 500 completed responses.</p>
Anonymous suggestions should not be considered as you are not getting a survey of people who would be most affected i.e those in CBD areas or near the river.	4 out of the 5 groups will be in Grafton and South Grafton areas. We want to get views of broad community.
Why should we have traffic funnelled into CBD?	Noted.
All objectives need to be looked at and the 2003/4 objectives should be reinstated.	Noted.
Where previously have you put a road through a regional town?	<p>In areas some residents would argue we have not bypassed the town e.g. Coffs Harbour. Sometimes a bypass is put in but the town grows beyond the bypass e.g. Raymond Terrace. A route has not been selected yet. Some options bypass Grafton and some don't.</p>
Your heavy vehicle study says you have contacted all major bus and transport companies – 4 big ones in town have said they did not receive anything. Now the Daily Examiner says 6 were never contacted.	We have reviewed our information and can confirm that 37 transport companies were contacted and 8 bus and transport companies responded. We are continuing to check this information.
We are concerned about transparency of the project process and consistency of the project team.	The role of Chris Clark and Bob Higgins is to see the process through to get an identified route.
How many questions are in the phone survey and will they be different to the postal/written survey?	Approximately 20 questions will be asked in the phone survey. Eligibility questions will be asked first. Input from the postal surveys has been used to form the questions.
Bob – do you live here – what is your commitment to the town?	I was married in Grafton. I have worked in the RTA office in the main street, Prince Street, for a number of years. I don't live in Grafton, this

	could be seen as a potential conflict.
Has this presentation been made to council? I would like it recorded that no interest was shown by the Mayor.	No, it hasn't.
The Ballina bypass was very expensive. Why can't Grafton get an out of town option?	Cost is only one of the components that need to be considered.
Will information, including geotechnical investigations, be available during the short-listing process? Has any geotechnical work taken place already?	Information will be available in the reports prepared during the process.
Will you, or are you taking into account the concerns of the community from end 2009?	Yes, all feedback will be considered.
There are systems that could alleviate the current traffic congestion on the existing bridge – why not consider these first before proceeding with the new bridge?	Demand management measures will be considered.

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION / DETAILS

Community phone number for the project is 1800 633 332.

Information is also available on the RTA website – www.rta.nsw.gov.au/graftonbridge