

Submission to North Sydney Council

Regarding the Northern Beaches Bus Network Review

From the North Sydney Transport Association

The North Sydney Transport Association urges North Sydney Council to advocate, in its submission to Transport for NSW regarding the Northern Beaches Network Review, for any future upgrades to Military Road to incorporate provisions for potential future mass transit conversion, particularly light rail infrastructure.

Military Road is one of Sydney's most significant public transport corridors, carrying extremely high bus volumes between the Northern Beaches, Lower North Shore, and the Sydney CBD. While the current review is focused on road vehicle operations, the corridor's long-term strategic importance means that infrastructure decisions made today should avoid limiting future transport capacity improvements.

The Association specifically requests that Council recommend:

- The preservation or construction of specialised medians along Military Road, designed in a way that could accommodate future light rail infrastructure without requiring major reconstruction.
 - A method by which this could be done is by shifting bus operations into the newly constructed median alignment, turning bus lanes to car space lost by the expanded median, avoiding the need for excessive widening.

The implementation of bus priority infrastructure in said median is designed to allow future conversion or adaptation to higher-capacity transit modes.

This would be done in a similar manner to the design approach used for the Sydney CBD and South East Light Rail corridor along Anzac Parade and Alison Road, where corridor space has been structured to support both current bus efficiency and long-term rapid transit opportunities. We also recommend streetscape and road renewal works that avoid permanently constraining the corridor through excessive kerbside widening, fragmented lane arrangements, or other designs incompatible with future fixed-track transit.

Military Road's constrained geography and growing transport demand mean that long-term corridor preservation is essential. Even if light rail delivery remains a future consideration rather than a current commitment, ensuring that corridor upgrades remain compatible with future higher-capacity transit represents prudent strategic planning.

The North Sydney Transport Association believes the Northern Beaches corridor requires long-term transport vision beyond incremental bus improvements alone, and that Council should encourage TfNSW to future-proof the corridor wherever practical.

Executive Contacts:

