

Opportunities to Refresh the Current NSW Road Safety Strategy and Integrate Safety Priorities with Broader Transport Planning Outcomes

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Abstract

Transport for NSW has commenced refreshing the strategic approach to long-term transport planning in NSW with the release of the Future Transport Plan. The University of Melbourne was commissioned to identify opportunities to refresh the current NSW Road Safety Strategy, and to better integrate it with transport planning outcomes. Specific opportunities identified relate to integrated land use and transport, transport modal shift, enhancing accessibility, and intelligent transport systems. A new framework for an integrated Safe System is also presented, which will influence development of a new five-year Road Safety Plan to underpin the Future Transport Plan.

Background

The NSW Road Safety Strategy 2012-2021 (the Strategy) establishes the ten-year direction of road safety in NSW. The Strategy is based on the Safe System approach.

Presently Transport for NSW (TfNSW) has commenced refreshing our approach to long-term transport planning with the release of the Future Transport Plan. The Future Transport Plan will have a view to 2056 and seeks to meet the future transport needs of all NSW customers. It is therefore timely to integrate the current Strategy with the Future Transport Plan to ensure that road safety is embedded in all aspects of our transport services, network, assets and infrastructure.

This project assumes that road safety strategies must now be considered from a perspective of complex systems for the delivery of a safe and sustainable transport network.

As a first step to reviewing the Strategy, the University of Melbourne was commissioned to:

- Identify effective approaches to developing road safety strategies
- Review progress of the current Strategy implementation
- Identify opportunities to refresh the Strategy, and to integrate it with transport planning.

Method

Tasks for this work included:

- A comprehensive review of international best practice in strategy development.
- A strategic stocktake of the current Strategy, in terms of its vision, targets and directions.
- A desktop review of initiatives implemented since the release of the current Strategy.
- Semi-structured interviews with senior TfNSW management and key external stakeholders.
- Analysis of NSW crash data trends.

Results

In addition to opportunities to intensify current initiatives for further road safety improvements across the NSW road network, this work also identified the following opportunities for integrating the Strategy with long-term strategic transport planning:

- Integrated land use and transport: prioritising better matching of vehicle operating speeds, vehicle safety features, road user behaviours and the designed environment;
- Transport modal shift: accelerating the shift to public transport, and to active transport by prioritising the design and delivery of safe walking and cycling facilities;
- Enhancing accessibility: facilitating the shift to safer modes of transport for seniors and disadvantaged people in rural and regional NSW; and
- Intelligent transport systems: promoting innovative technologies to enhance and monitor safety outcomes.

A refreshed Strategy framework is at Figure 1. The framework introduces the NSW Future Transport Plan as the overarching context driving the Strategy and identifies four priorities for safety that must be addressed in the refreshed Strategy. Safe and sustainable transport for all is identified as the ultimate goal, with safety determined in accordance with desired Safe System outcomes (i.e. elimination of road fatalities and serious injuries).



Figure 1. Refreshed road safety strategy framework

Conclusions

This work identifies several opportunities to refresh the current NSW Road Safety Strategy, and to better integrate road safety with transport planning outcomes. It presents a new way of thinking about Safe System principles within a broader transport planning context. TfNSW has commenced work to develop a new five-year Road Safety Plan to underpin the broader NSW Future Transport Plan, which will be influenced by outcomes from this work.