



Proposed Young Street Plaza Upgrade

Prepared April 2024

North Sydney Council is committed both in principle and in practice, to engaging on matters affecting the North Sydney community.

The purpose of this project-specific Engagement Strategy is to outline the ways stakeholders can be involved in the decision-making process. Community engagement opportunities will be provided across a range of engagement levels.

1. Introduction

This Engagement Strategy outlines the steps Council will take to engage with the community in considering the updated Young Street Plaza Design. The site is located in Young Street Neutral Bay between Military Road and Grosvenor Lane, and it creates public open space. Council is committed to engaging the community to ensure that the proposal meets community expectations.

1.1 Council's Community Engagement Protocol

This strategy has been prepared in accordance with Council's *Community Engagement Protocol*. The Protocol is used to determine the 'level(s) of impact' applicable to this project/decision (proposal). This proposal has been determined as:

LEVEL OF IMPACT	LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT
High/Local	Inform/Consult

Under the *Transport of NSW Delegation to Councils - Regulation of Traffic*, in accordance with the Transport Administration Act 1988 and Roads Act 1993, Council is required to submit the outcomes of the community consultation for assessment by the Transport for NSW prior to exercising its functions to partially reopen the road to vehicles and to implement Left Only for vehicles traveling from Grosvenor Lane into Young Street.

Council used the framework shown below in Table 1.1 to select the most appropriate 'level(s) of engagement' for this proposal to ensure an appropriate range of engagement 'levels' and methods were offered:

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
Inform	Providing balanced and objective information to help the community understand problems, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions
Consult	Obtain public feedback on alternatives and/or decisions
Involve	Work directly with the community throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered

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LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
Collaborate	Partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and identification of the preferred solution

Table 1.1 Derived from the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum

2. Background

In October 2018, the Council considered a funding deed with Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) to improve amenities and access in Neutral Bay Village, including the creation of a Public Plaza in Young Street. The trial closure of Young Street was approved in September 2020 and opened in December 2020. However, in April 2022, the Council resolved to reopen Young Street. The Council engaged consultants to formulate a concept design for the partial reopening. TfNSW confirmed the proposal aligns with funding objectives.

At its meeting on 11 December 2023, Council noted the concept design for the partial reopening of Young Street, the update on the ongoing dialogue with TfNSW, and plans for formal engagement and community consultation. A further report will be presented based on the feedback received during this process.

3. Community Engagement Strategy

3.1 Who are our community stakeholders?

The Community Engagement Strategy identifies the following groups to engage with in the local community:

- Local businesses
- Chamber of Commerce
- Neutral Bay Streetscape Committee
- Local residents
- Precinct Committees
 - Neutral Precinct
 - Parks Precinct
 - Brightmore Precinct
 - Harrison/Bennett Precinct
 - Willoughby Bay Precinct
 - Cremorne Point Precinct
- Emergency services
- Australia Post
- Councillors
- Local schools
- Other community members
 - Submitters to the Neutral bay Town Centre Planning Study
 - Neutral Bay Community Centre

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3.2 Key Communication Messages

- You are invited to provide feedback on the proposed design for the new Young Street Plaza in Neutral Bay.
- The plans for the new, permanent plaza include new trees, seating, a play area, and a pedestrian thoroughfare that will make it safer and more enjoyable to walk, cycle and spend time around Neutral Bay village. Young Street will be partially reopened in one direction, allowing traffic to flow onto Military Road.
- To improve pedestrian safety in the Grosvenor Lane shared zone, traffic will be directed to turn left only when driving along Grosvenor Lane into Young Street.
- Council resolved to reopen Young Street in April 2022, after it was closed to create a temporary plaza in 2020.
- Find out more and submit your feedback on Council's Your Say webpage or at a drop-in information session at the plaza (Tuesday 28/05/2024). Council will also deliver print materials to nearby business owners and residents.
- Outcomes of the community consultation will be reported to Council in July 2024.
- Transport for NSW is funding these works as part of an agreement with Council for streetscape upgrade works that complement the Northern Beaches B-Line Bus Service.

3.3 Timetable

Community and stakeholder engagement will occur at various times and stages of the project. The key project development phases are outlined in the following table:

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Timing</i>
1. Concept Design Option Consultation	May – June 2024
2. TfNSW and Traffic Committee Approval for the partial reopening	June – July 2024
3. Detailed concept design endorsement by Council	July 2024
4. Finalising Design	August 2024 to November 2024
5. Community Notification and Construction	February to May 2025

3.3.1 Concept Design Option Consultation

Between April to May 2024 Council will offer various methods by which the community can contribute to Phase 1, including face-to-face and online, allowing the community to participate at times that best suit their needs and commitments.

At the end of Phase 1, the consultation outcomes will be reported to Council with a Detailed Concept design for adoption. This report will be made available to all participants and key stakeholders on Council's website.

Not listed in priority order:

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Method	Target Stakeholders	Engagement Level	Purpose
Webpage	All	Inform	Provide information about the project and direct people to how they can have a say e.g. consultation opportunities
Media release	All		
Advertisement	All		
Social media (Facebook/Instagram/Twitter/Linked In)	All		
Information flyer	Local residents/businesses		
E-news	Existing subscribers: Council E-news Precinct E-news Business E-news NBTCP Keep Informed		
Onsite signage	Site users	Inform	Promote the opportunity to provide feedback as to preferred design features. Signage to include a QR code.
Memo	Precinct Committees	Inform	Committees to promote engagement to their members/networks
Streetscape Committees	Neutral Bay Streetscape Committee		
Drop-in kiosk	All	Inform/Consult	Face-to-face sessions where participants can ask questions and provide feedback as to preferred design. Activities to include <i>design charette</i> allowing participant to demonstrate preferred design options. features.
Survey	All	Inform/Consult	Identify the important features and allow comments on the proposed plaza's design features
Submissions	All	Consult	Free form feedback accepted by email or posted letter as well as via online form.

Note: In accordance with Council's Community Engagement Framework described on page 1, the 'level of engagement' per engagement method is indicated.

3.3.2. Phase 2 – TfNSW and Traffic Committee Approval for the partial reopening

This phase will involve reporting to and seeking endorsement from TfNSW and Traffic Committee for the partial reopening of the road.

Method	Target Stakeholders	Engagement Level	Purpose
Traffic Committee	TfNSW, NSW Police, Local State Member, Councillors, General Public	Involve	To seek endorsement from the Traffic Committee regarding the proposal.

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3.3.3 Phase 3 - Detailed concept design endorsement by Council

This Phase involves finalising the preferred concept design that resulted from the community outcomes and to be reported to Council for adoption.

This report will be made available to all participants and key stakeholders on Council's website.

Inform engagement methods listed in Phase 1 will continue during this phase.

3.3.4 Phase 4 – Finalising design

This Phase involves finalising design of the council's endorsed concept. A multidisciplinary team will be engaged to complete detailed design for Tender and Construction.

Inform engagement methods listed in Phase 1 will continue during this phase.

3.3.5 Phase 5 - Community Notification and Construction

This Phase involves informing those impacted by construction, of upcoming works via face-to-face methods, letterbox drop and direct letter. Implementation of partial road reopening will be carried out as per final Traffic Management Plan and Traffic Control Plan.

4. Opportunity Cost/Rationale

Engaging the community in this proposal may entail financial costs to Council to achieve a high-quality engagement process. If the process is robust, community ownership of the decisions made will ensure efficient outcomes. Insufficient or poor-quality engagement can result in poor long-term decisions requiring further resources to rectify. The aim of a high-quality community engagement process is to make sustainable decisions. The engagement process will help Council staff and/or Councillors to understand the related recommendations rationale.

5. Further Information

For further information please contact Diana Mejia, Council's Project Manager, Open Spaces and Infrastructure Division:

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