



STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION

Mr Michael Petterson MLA (Chair), Mr Jonathan Davis MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Peter Cain MLA**Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22**
QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Nicole Lawder MLA:

Ref: 2021-22 ACT Women's Budget Statement

In relation to: Active Travel

1. What engagement has the Active Travel Office had with women's groups prior to recent footpath maintenance, cycling and walking route upgrades and local shopping centre improvements?
2. How frequently does the Active Travel Office liaise with women's groups and is there a formal consultation process in place in regards to government upgrades?

Mr Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Each year TCCS establishes a program of works based on community requests and must assess these to meet community needs and then prioritise them against other requests. Real and perceived safety is a barrier to decisions to walk or cycle for women.

Following safety, TCCS assesses requests for their alignment with strategic goals; proximity and connectivity to community destinations and public transport; and the demand for the path (future or existing).

TCCS values the work undertaken by the Women's Centre for Health Matters Inc on safety in public places and bus stops and has been guided by this work when considering recent upgrades to lighting and path connections, particularly to bus stops.

2. Where the project is significant, TCCS may undertake formal community engagement appropriate to the scope and complexity of the works. A range of stakeholders may be contacted directly or indirectly during this engagement, as is relevant to that project.

Formal community engagement is more common on strategic policy and guidance that is used by the ACT Government to inform the development of walking and cycling infrastructure. For example, the Active Travel Office will be contacting community groups in the near future on a package of policy including an update of the Active Travel Framework, strategic cycle network plan and design guidance.

OFFICIAL

The Active Travel Office runs an annual event '*Spoke Up! for women's health*' as part of Women's Health Week. The Active Travel Office works with women's groups to develop a program of activities to encourage more women to ride a bike for transport. These activities provide an opportunity for women to raise and discuss their barriers to participation to cycling (walking and public transport use).

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:



Date:

10/11/21

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA