

CDB and East Team  
Transport for NSW  
Sydney  
NSW 2000

12<sup>th</sup> October 2023

[cbd-and-east@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cbd-and-east@transport.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Transport for NSW (CBD and East),

**Re: Temporary Swanson Street Cycleway, Erskineville**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the plans to reinstate the temporary cycleway on Swanson Street across the rail bridge in Erskineville.

In November 2022, Transport for NSW committed to retain the 'pop-up' facility installed in 2021 and develop plans for the permanent reallocation of road space on the Swanson Street bridge. Bicycle NSW was very disappointed when the pop-up lane was removed in May 2023 and the road space returned to general traffic.

The bridge is a critical link in the strategic cycleway corridor between Newtown and Green Square. This corridor has been identified as an immediate opportunity in the Eastern Harbour City Strategic Cycleway Corridors program. It is a key priority for NSW Government and a necessary element of City of Sydney's cycling network (Figure 1).

The congested road does not provide a safe place to ride a bike. Although riders under 16 and their carers can cycle on the footpath, this is uncomfortable and creates conflicts with people walking. The footpaths are narrow and further constrained by fencing. On the northern side, there is barely space for two pedestrians to pass and locals have long been calling for the footpath to be widened.

The removal of the pop-up lane was clearly a misunderstanding between the different layers of governance in this location. The community is grateful that TfNSW is correcting the mistake made in May 2023.

**Bicycle NSW is therefore very supportive of the proposal to convert the kerbside eastbound lane into a temporary bi-directional cycleway while plans for a permanent cycleway are developed.**

Safe and comfortable access by bike across the bridge is essential to link the Wilson St/Burren St, Railway Parade/Henderson Rd and Bridge St cycleways. The proposed Swanson Street cycleway will facilitate safe micromobility access to many local destinations, including Erskineville Public School, Erskineville Station, Macdonaldtown Station, Tech Central, University of Sydney, Sydney Park, the South Eveleigh Precinct, Green Square, the Ashmore Precinct and the future North Eveleigh Precinct.

The proposal is aligned with the NSW Government's Road User Space Allocation Policy (CP21000), Future Transport Strategy and Active Transport Strategy. It prioritises people walking and riding over access by private vehicle. Amenity for residents, businesses, school children, pedestrians and bike riders will improve and motor vehicle traffic and associated impacts (congestion, traffic noise, air pollution, etc.) will be reduced.

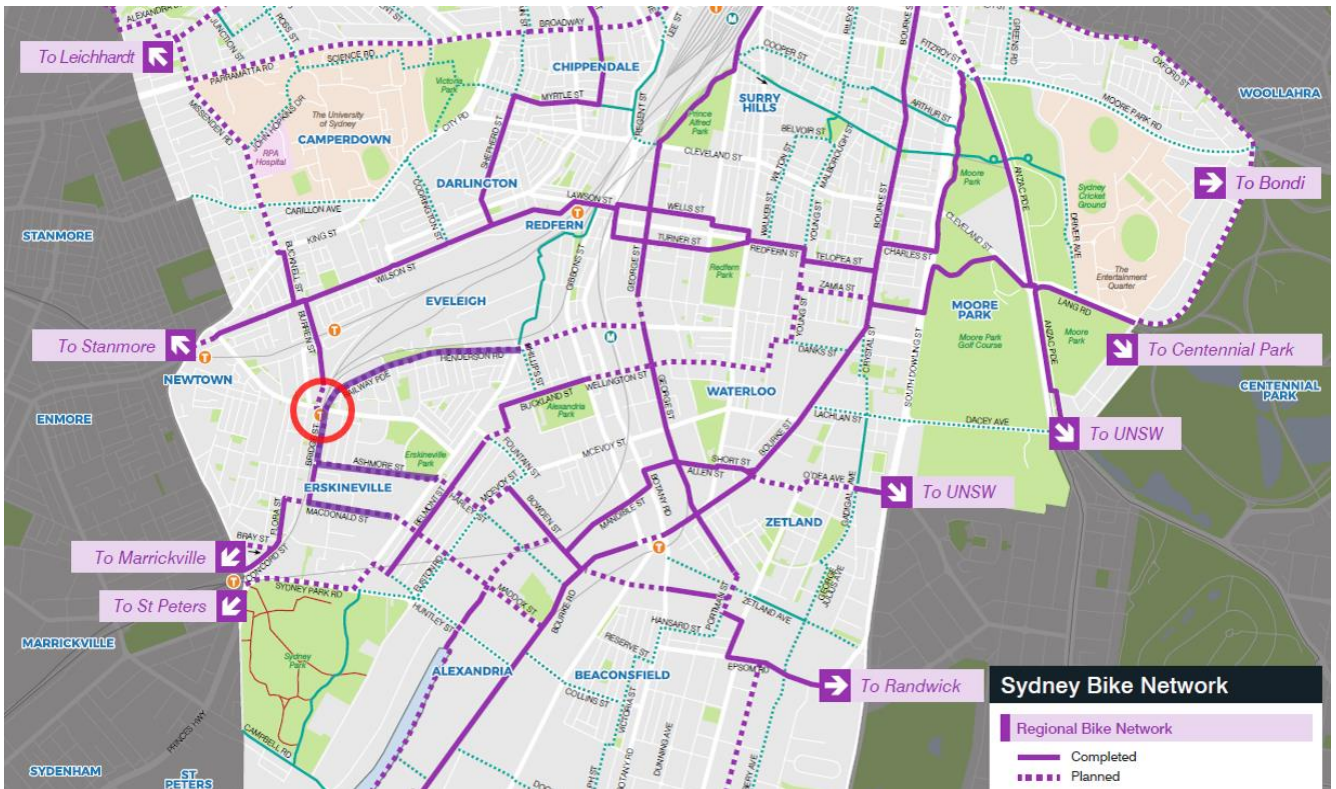


Figure 1: The red circle highlights the critical location of the Swanson Street bridge in the Sydney bike network (Image: City of Sydney)

Transport for NSW has developed plans for the permanent configuration of the cycleway as a wide shared path (Figure 2). The plans were shared with the community in November 2022.

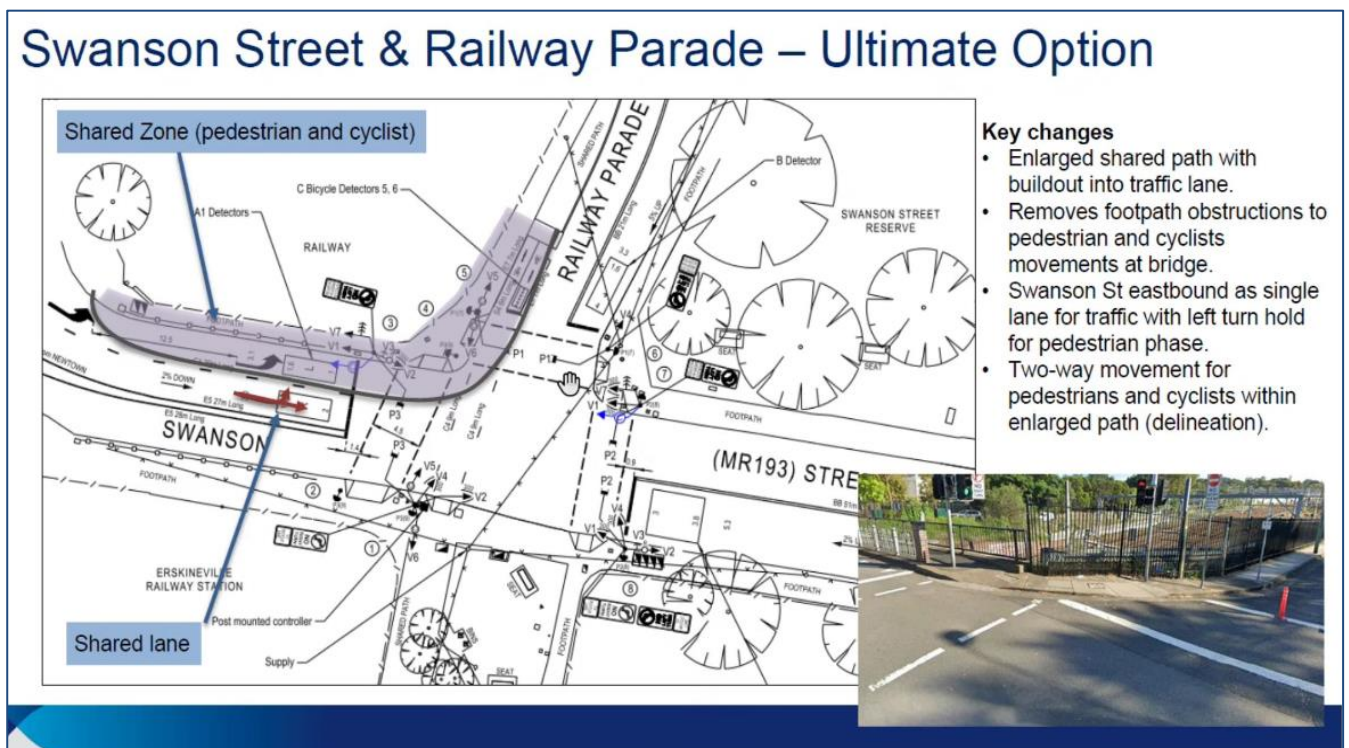


Figure 2: The shared zone proposed by Transport for NSW in November 2022 (Image: Friends of Erskineville)

**We align with Friends of Erskineville and Walk Sydney to support the shared path solution.**

Although Bicycle NSW generally prefers to separate bike riders and pedestrians where possible, we recognise that the space available on the bridge is limited. A shared path for this short segment will provide a spacious environment for pedestrians and will not create major conflict with cyclists.

A wide shared path here does not preclude future solutions to make it safe enough for more cyclists to use the road, such as lowering the speed limit to 30 km/h, and potential intersection changes that enable bike riders to turn right from Swanson St into the Bridge St cycleway.

Bicycle NSW would like to see the temporary cycleway upgraded to a permanent shared pedestrian and bicycle path as soon as possible.

We look forward to working with Transport for NSW to develop long-term solutions for the bridge and we look forward riding on the temporary cycleway very soon.

Yours faithfully,



Francis O'Neill  
Head of Advocacy  
Bicycle NSW



Peter McLean  
Chief Executive Officer  
Bicycle NSW

*Bicycle NSW has been the peak bicycle advocacy group in NSW for forty-seven years, and has more than 30 affiliated local Bicycle User Groups. Our mission is to 'create a better environment for all bicycle riders', and we support improvements to facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. Bike riding provides a healthy, congestion-reducing, low-carbon form of travel that is quiet, efficient, and attractive for all ages with the correct infrastructure design.*