

Gold Coast Oceanway - Cycle/Pedestrian Path

In Brief

Town/Region	<i>Gold Coast</i>
State	<i>Queensland</i>
Context	Coastal (including Inner City, Suburban, regional and Town Centres)
Target Group	All
Organisation(s):	Gold Coast City Council Heart Foundation 10,000 steps Queensland Transport
Timing of Project	Ongoing
Weblink	http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/oceanway
Key Outcomes	People engaging in regular physical activity Built environments influencing active living Sense of belonging Sense of place Positive health impacts.



Overview

The Gold Coast Oceanway provides healthy and sustainable options for pedestrians and cyclists to enjoy Gold Coast beaches. The Oceanway consists of a 36 kilometre network of paved pathways from the Point Danger Lighthouse on the NSW border to the Gold Coast Seaway at the northern end of the Spit.



OUTCOMES

Successes

- Provision of connecting pathways between destinations allowing tourists and residents to make more trips via walking and cycling
- Increasing numbers of people able to enjoy sustainable journeys.
- Ongoing Council investment and recognition of the value of the movement network and need for ongoing upgrades.
- Converting two-way streets with narrow and uneven footpaths to one-way streets with improved and widened pavements has allowed greater walking and cycling use.
- Provision of hard surface pathways has allowed elderly residents and others with low mobility to access beaches that were previously inaccessible due to the difficulty of traversing soft sands.



Learnings

- Build it and they will come. By building more generous pathways for pedestrians and cyclists, non-motorised transport useage explodes. There is pent up demand for more sustainable behaviours which can be addressed by investing in green infrastructure.
- The contrast between a normal footpath and an Oceanway in terms of usage behaviours is even more dramatic than between a road with many intersections and a freeway. People appreciate immensely the ability to walk in a constant alignment and pace without having to step over driveways, service lids, cross streets and bus stops. Normal footpaths removes 80% of potential traffic conflicts in comparison with an Oceanway standard right of way which has zero cross conflicts.
- Intersection detail for the Oceanway is critical. There is a need to respect ease of alongshore movement in changes made to individual sections and public space. For the Oceanway share of travel to grow overall, the regional nature of the corridor needs to be respected in each local area masterplan.
- Shade and facilities are critical. People won't walk in the South East Queensland climate unless there is shade. There also needs to be regular public toilets and playgrounds.
- You need to reward users of the sustainable infrastructure by celebrating their experience as quintessential. Move artwork and entry statements that once would have faced people in cars – to face people arriving along the Oceanway.
- Place art in “aspirational” locations – not central nodes – so people are challenged to walk to find the art. When they do walk they have a better experience then competing for limited coastal carparks.



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Costs

- Gold Coast City Council has identified \$30M to invest into the Gold Coast Oceanway over the next 10 years. At this rate of investment it will take until 2070 to complete the identified upgrades to the network. Support from other levels of government has been able to accelerate the pace of investment into sustainable infrastructure. The endorsement from state and commonwealth has also helped in discussion about controversial sections of Oceanway where there is competition between public access and the local amenity of beachfront property owners.
- Oceanway pavements cost about \$2,000 per metre of coast to construct. Oceanway projects often include investment into the quality of public open space generally including playgrounds, toilets and community facilities. Lighting for 24 hour enjoyment is critical to achieve commuter type usage. With lighting to traffic code standards Oceanway's cost \$2,800 per metre of coast.

Benefits

- Active and Healthy people – less obesity. People learn active behaviours while on Gold Coast holiday and take this enjoyment home with them to their own neighbourhoods.
- Gold Coast environments are very diverse and meet a wider range of tourist desires than people expect. Marketing the Oceanway allows the diversity of Gold Coast beaches to be enjoyed by tourists.
- It is already difficult to find a vacant car space at many Gold Coast Beaches. Local people don't visit Surfers or Broadbeach as the roads leading to these places are too congested. If there is not adequate investment into sustainable infrastructure, then easy beach access will become something only rich people who live nearby can enjoy.

REFERENCES

Gold Coast Oceanway

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