

Sunshine Coast - Mass Transit Action Group Inc

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3 May 2021

Ms. Emma Thomas
CEO Sunshine Coast Regional Council

(Via Contact form on Council Website)

Dear Emma

Firstly it was great to meet you in February and we appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and discuss our concerns regarding the Mass Transit Project currently being undertaken by Council.

We have some further concerns that have come to light as we learn more. We are writing now for clarification regarding the Mass Transit Draft Options Analysis Report (DOAR) and the Community Consultation that is currently underway. Specifically, we would like to know how the outcomes from the Community Consultation will shape the recommendations in the Final Options Analysis report that will be brought before Councillor for approval to proceed to the Detailed Business Case.

The Draft Options Analysis Report makes reference to the Community Consultation but does not explain how it will impact the final preferred options brought before Council

"This engagement will be underpinned by this current Options Analysis report (noting that a Preliminary Business Case is now referred to as an Options Analysis in the BCDF). When the engagement is completed the draft Options Analysis report will be updated to incorporate the results of the engagement and reported to the Sunshine Coast Council." (DOAR item 3.3.2.4, p 48)

This suggests to us that the engagement results will be added as an additional chapter of the report but no change will be made to the preferred options. The expectation going into this consultation was the feedback from the community would result in an updated preferred options assessment reflecting community sentiment.

We have now discussed this with several Councillors and Council staff and received different answers. During a meeting with Councillors, we were told the purpose of the community consultation was to determine the preferred options to be brought before Council. However subsequent discussions with Council staff have indicated this is not the case. We have been told the Community engagement results will be written up in the final Options Analysis document, but the preferred options as outlined in the DOAR will not change. When we asked what if the two are in direct contrast to each other; we were told it would be up to Councillors to then decide if they voted in favour of the community view or the recommendations in the final Options Analysis report. If the first should occur, we were told the whole Business Case would cease to exist.

If the latter is the case, this concerns us. The Community expect their feedback will be listened to and the Draft Options Analysis recommendations reviewed in light of it. We realize this would add time to the process but this is a massive investment for the region both financially and socially and therefore deserves proper consideration. We believe we have the opportunity for Council and the Community to build something that will benefit everyone.

We would appreciate clarification on this issue.

Your sincerely



Tracey Goodwin-McDonald
President - Sunshine Coast Mass Transit Action Group Inc