



Newsletter – 4th July 2018

Please refer to our newsletter dated 8th April 2018 on our website (link).

The last meeting of the State Government Committee was held on 18th May 2018. Several days before the meeting we were contacted by Mr Matarazzo from Sydney Trains asking to meet with Joan and myself on 16th May prior to the Committee meeting.

At our meeting Mr Matarazzo explained the current status of the Sydney Trains research into the relocation of rail services and advised that Sydney Trains was costing not only railways specific work but the Highline proposals. This came as a pleasant surprise for Joan and me.

The following email was then sent to Sydney Trains.

From: **David Bowman** <david@sydneyharbourhighline.org.au>
Date: Wed, May 16, 2018 at 8:43 PM
Subject: HIGHLINE
To: "Matarazzo, Rino" <RINO.MATARAZZO2@transport.nsw.gov.au>, Joan Street <joan@sydneyharbourhighline.org.au>

Evening Rino

Thank you for meeting with Joan and myself this morning. Good to hear that your Major Works Team are now completing their analysis and you anticipate that final costing will be available by mid-June.

While costings are proceeding you will continue to liaise with stakeholders within your organisation.

In addition to costings related to specific operating facilities Sydney Trains (ST) is:

- Satisfied that there are no issues relating to the tunnel except for lighting. ST to provide specifications for lighting levels so there will be no detrimental effects on drivers.*
- Clarifying whether there are any contamination issues along the line.*
- In discussions with heritage as to the value of some of the stanchions and whether they need to be retained.*
- Confirming to the Committee that the lines south-east of the Depot at Lavender Bay must be retained as long as ST requires them for operational purposes.*

In August last year Howard Collins stipulated that Sydney Trains:

- Is to have continued access to the line*
- Will share the corridor with the HighLine providing there is a dividing fence*
- Will not permit pedestrian crossings*
- Will analyse and cost the project*
- Will provide no funding however will retain ownership*

Joan and I have addressed North Sydney Council (NSC) officers and Councillors and as a result of those meetings understand that NSC has given in-principle agreement to take a lease over part of the

rail corridor for the walkway (from the dividing fence to the northern boundary of RailCorp land), to build the walkway in accordance with RailCorp's requirements and to maintain the walkway. This is exactly what I understand Howard requires based on our previous meetings with him.

NSC has provided planning advice that assessment can occur under Part 5 of the Act by way of a "Review of Environmental Factors".

The Process

- i) RailCorp to give "Owner's Consent" to NSC and agree to enter into a lease with NSC over the walkway.*
- ii) NSC to coordinate building design and costings supplied to it by Sydney Trains and the Sydney Harbour High Line Association.*
- iii) NSC to prepare and process a 'Review of Environmental Factors'*
- iv) NSC to prepare an application for funding to the NSW State Government.*
- iv) As part of the cost items will be the construction of new service troughing on the southern side of the rail corridor and, where possible, relocation of new stanchions to the southern side. Sydney Trains will not be responsible for these costs.*
- v) The troughing and stanchion work may be carried out by Sydney Trains or by NSC contractors.*
- vi) NSC to construct the required work, subject of course to all lease arrangements with RailCorp being in place and funding having been granted.*

It will assist greatly if you obtain Howard's agreement to the NSC involvement so this matter may be confirmed to the Committee meeting this Friday.

If you have any concerns and questions about the above course of action please let me know before Friday so that the Association may advise its supporters in its next newsletter.

Thanks again for the positive pathway your team is taking.

Regards

David

Prior to the State Committee meeting on 18th we met with Felicity Wilson to brief her personally before our formal meeting.

At commencement of the meeting she advised that Mr Matarazzo had just called and advised he could not attend but would report to the meeting by phone.

Mr Ken Gouldthorp, General Manager of North Sydney Council together with the Mayor, attended and during the course of the discussions agreement was reached that Mr Matarazzo and Mr Gouldthorp would meet in the next week or two to discuss Council's potential involvement with the Highline project.

Mr Gouldthorp would not make any commitment as to whether Council would take a lease over the Highline corridor from Railcorp.

Following the meeting we emailed Mr Matarazzo.

From: David Bowman [<mailto:david@sydneyharbourhighline.org.au>]

Sent: Monday, 21 May 2018 10:52 AM

To: Matarazzo, Rino; Felicity Wilson; Zimmerman, Trent (MP)

Subject: Fwd: HIGHLINE

Good morning Rino

Further to our meeting on 16th May, my email to you on 16th May and discussions by phone at the Committee meeting on 18th May I kindly request that Sydney Trains:

1. Include in their costings for the Highline project the relocation costs for stanchions from the north side of the line to the southern side. If some of the original double sided stanchions must remain in place then please provide for relocation of the six new stanchions from Union St to Dumbarton St and removal, where permitted, of any of the older steel posts that no longer are operative. The relocation of the stanchions will provide additional space for the walkway.

2. Advise of the approximate construction time of the Highline project irrespective of when it commences or which authority carries out the work.

3. Provide the lighting level requirements in the tunnel when trains are using the line.

4. Advise of the date of the meeting with North Sydney Council in order that a representative from the SHHL Association may attend.

Thank you.

Regards

David

There has been no response to the above email and since 18th May neither Council nor SHHL representatives have met with Sydney Trains.

Confirmation was received on 21st June that the State meeting would be on Wednesday 27th June. On 26th June we were advised that the meeting needed to be postponed due to the unavailability of Mr Matarazzo. We understand that Ms Wilson then met with Mr Howard Collins the CE of Sydney Trains on 29th June to determine why Sydney Trains has failed to produce the required information and their representative has been unable to attend the last two meetings.

The meeting is now planned for Friday 6th July.

We apologise for the delays in reporting to members but when you consider the events above and the total lack of professional courtesy and outright rudeness from Sydney Trains we have been hamstrung in our ability to achieve any traction with this matter.

We intended developing landscaping plans for various areas along the walkway however felt it was more sensible to wait for Sydney Trains to produce their full report. In the meantime we engaged a Quantity Surveyor to prepare a full detailed report on our designs.

This year we have addressed two meetings of Councillors after briefing Council officers. Our proposal to Council is that it enter into a conditional lease with RailCorp over the walkway corridor land: in conjunction with the SHHL Association Council completes the design and final costs and then seeks State Government funding to carry out the work.

Due to the continuing delays to Committee meetings as a result of Sydney Trains inaction we are uncertain as to whether this Friday's meeting will proceed. We are therefore issuing this report as it is important for all supporters to understand why there has been a delay to our newsletters.

Regards



David Bowman
Vice President
Sydney Harbour High Line Association

