



Considerations for higher education travel plans

DESCRIPTION: The needs of educational institutes differs to businesses, hospitals and schools due to their distinct roles as places of learning and research, as major businesses and as key community players.

A higher education institution Travel Plan could deliver a range of benefits.

- Accommodate future growth.
- Provide better site access experience for staff and students.
- Help improve quality of life on campus.
- Help achieve sustainability goals.

Travel plans have been implemented widely by Higher Education Institutions in Australia, the UK and New Zealand.

University Technology Sydney (UTS)

At University Technology Sydney (UTS) the 2013-2020 Transport Plan is part of the overall university Sustainability Strategy.

A major objective of the Transport Plan is to reduce the number of people driving. UTS promotes the use of public transport as a preferred mode of travel through marketing and information.

'[Walk to UTS Day](#)' has helped raise awareness of walking as a travel option, facilitated shifts from other transport modes to walking and generated longer term behaviour change. This work won UTS the Transport for NSW Travel Choices Awards for Transport Initiative of the Year.

Sustainable Transport Plan 2013-2020, UTS

Developing a Travel Plan for a higher education institution will need consideration of some specific issues including:

| Issue | Description |
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| Semesters, holidays and exam periods | Demand for travel to higher education institutes is not evenly spread across the year, and at some times (e.g. exams) journey time reliability will be critical. The Travel Plan will need to reflect this, and the travel survey will need to be carried out during a period of relative 'normality' in the academic calendar. |
| Staff, students and on-site private sector providers | <p>The Travel Plan will need to accommodate the needs of all three customer markets (staff, students and on-site private sector providers), all of whom will have very different travel behaviour and travel needs.</p> <p>It is likely that a separate travel survey will be needed for each group, potentially with slightly different questions and administered in a different way. Depending on the size of the student population a sample survey may be more appropriate and offer better value for money.</p> <p>Preferred communication channels for each customer market may also be different and may involve use of faculties, student bodies, sustainability networks, facility management, etc.</p> |
| On site accommodation | The need for travel to and from the site may be minimised by increasing on-site accommodation. This could be included in the scope of a Travel Plan. |
| Constant movement | Unlike workplaces where travel will be concentrated in the peak hours, higher education institutions will have people arriving and departing throughout the day and into the evening (with evening classes, bars and restaurants and accommodation on site). |
| On site transport | Depending on the size of the institution, efforts could be made to ensure a higher proportion of cross-site trips are made on foot or by active travel modes of transport or a shuttle service. The Travel Plan may indicate opportunities to adjust existing activities and encourage higher usage. |
| Sustainability | Many higher educational institutions have explicit sustainability goals. A Travel Plan offers a key way to achieving these goals. |
| Deliveries | Movement of vehicles into and around the site, servicing and delivering is likely to be significant. The Travel Plan offers an opportunity to potentially consolidate some of these deliveries and reduce the related carbon emissions and congestion impacts. |