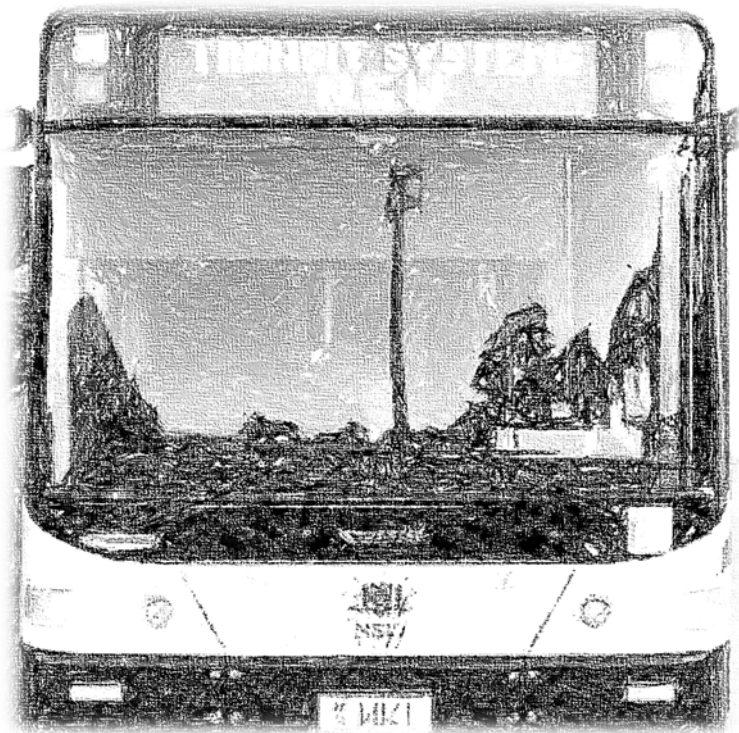




Middleton Grange Town Centre

Public Transport Options Paper



Background

The development of the Middleton Grange Town Centre will see a significant increase to density, retail and employment opportunities in the evolving suburb of the same name. Current forecasts indicate the suburb will cater for a population of 10,000, with half of those living in the proposed Town Centre development.

The development provides an exciting opportunity where densities and activity will generate demand for high quality public transport services.



Proposed Middleton Grange Town Centre

As a local service provider in the region, Transit Systems has been invited to consider future public transport options that will connect Middleton Grange to the wider public transport network, whilst meeting the needs of residents in the suburb. This Options Paper is not a commitment to provide or operate such services but an indication of how public transport services may evolve in the local area.

Local Context

Middleton Grange is located approximately 7km to the west of Liverpool, SW Sydney's principal activity centre. Growth and development in the local region is currently at unprecedented levels. The NSW Metropolitan Plan forecasts that Sydney will require 425,000 additional jobs by 2020 and 760,000 new jobs by 2036 to support anticipated population growth. The most rapid population growth over the next 25 years is projected to occur in Western Sydney. Approximately 384,000 new jobs will be required in this area by 2036, representing half of Sydney's expected jobs growth.

Centres such as Liverpool are expected to support the long-term strategy of decentralisation from the central CBD by creating more jobs closer to homes to alleviate road congestion. The South West sub region in particular is expected to target a growth of more than 100 per cent on its 2010 employment level by 2036 (from 133,000 to 274,000).

With the proposed development of Badgerys Creek Airport just to the east of Middleton Grange, and the accompanying Western Sydney Employment Area, demand for high quality public transport services in the region will continue to grow beyond those currently on offer.

Major trip generators within the existing public transport network that need to be considered in the context of any future planning for Middleton Grange include:

- Liverpool City Centre and Interchange;
- Parramatta City Centre and Interchange;
- Leppington Rail Station; and
- Liverpool - Parramatta Transitway

Future Public Transport Infrastructure

Early identification and provision of relevant infrastructure can make a significant difference between the success or failure of any public transport service. Infrastructure in this context includes the correct siting and location of bus stops, the provision of bus shelters, road design and other bus priority features.

With the extraordinary level of development already underway or proposed in the local region, it's vital to incorporate the requirements for transport networks from the outset. A number of supporting infrastructure projects have been identified below and if delivered, will enable the implementation of effective mass transit services.



Public transport infrastructure improvements include:

- Elizabeth Hills Green Link – introduction of a new bus, pedestrian and cycle only link between Aviation Road and Middleton Drive;



- Middleton Drive – road improvements to allow the introduction of two-way bus movements;
- Transitway Extension (Hoxton Park Rd) – extension of the existing Liverpool Parramatta Transitway along the length of Hoxton Park Road to the intersection of Cowpasture Road; and
- Transitway Extension (Fifteenth Avenue) – extension of the Transitway to Badgerys Creek Airport.

Future Public Transport Service Options

The early introduction of public transport services into new communities is a key determinant of how successful the services ultimately become. Access to public transport networks can become a key selling point for home buyers, making the difference between buying a property in one suburb or another. With the correct mix of service frequency and design, urban planners can look at opportunities to deliver sustainable communities that reduce the dependency on private vehicles.

Improving densities at locations such as town centres may offer the required volume to create a virtuous cycle of improvement, where continued patronage growth leads to improved service frequency. The starting point for this review has been analysis of current travel patterns and demand in the local network. Then through the service design process, people and places are connected as efficiently as possible, maximising access to local services, facilities, employment centres and the wider transport.

When urban and transport planning are considered jointly, the outcome can be modern and desirable communities, such as that proposed for Middleton Grange. Where accessibility is not compromised by the need to own or use private vehicles, and the concept of sustainable communities can be realised. Details of the bus services options developed for this growing region are described below and also shown in greater detail overleaf.

- Service 1 (Liverpool – Leppington)

Service 1 provides multiple route destinations for retail and employment activities including those located at: Len Waters Estate; Middleton Grange; and Carnes Hill. Regional health and CBD facilities are available at Liverpool. Access to rail services will be available at Leppington and Liverpool stations, whilst Green Valley provides an interchange for Liverpool-Parramatta Transitway services.

- Service 2 (Liverpool – Middleton Grange)

Operating between Liverpool CBD and Middleton Grange via the Transitway, Service 2 will provide quick and reliable travel times. Numerous employment activities are located alongside the Transitway on Hoxton Park Rd. As work at Badgerys Creek Airport progresses this service provides an opportunity to be extended via Fifteenth Ave (and potentially extended Transitway) to access developments as it occurs..

- Service 3 (Middleton Grange – Parramatta)

Service 3 will allow direct and convenient travel to the major transport hub at Parramatta, improving the overall connectivity of Middleton Grange to the wider transport network. Operating via the Liverpool-Parramatta Transitway, this service will deliver quick and reliable travel times, whilst providing access to the numerous employment zones along the corridor.

