



Keeping Communities Moving Through Disruption

Department of Transport WA AITPM 2025 Submission

Key Details

- **Presenter:** Michelle Prior, Director Active Transport, Department of Transport WA
- **Authors:** Michelle Prior, Helen Ginbey, Fiona Goodbody, Danielle Stone
- **Main Presenting Author Bio:** Michelle Prior is the Director of Active Transport at the Department of Transport, leading multiple teams to support active transport infrastructure delivery and help make it easier for people to walk, wheel, or ride in WA. She is passionate about the importance of being active, with extensive experience in public health, transport planning, and behaviour change. Michelle is currently on the board of Surfing WA and a former board member of the Road Safety Council and Australian Women Sport and Recreation.
- **Photo included:** Michelle – Objective Reference A16231287 (uploaded)
- **Abstract theme alignment:** Integrated Transport Strategies for Thriving Communities
- **Key topics:** Active Transport, Behaviour Change, Resilience, Network Management, Disruption Management, Major Transport Projects

Abstract Summary (max 250 words, uploaded)

This presentation will focus on integrating active transport with major transport projects and disruptions to maintain connectivity and support community resilience. It will demonstrate how active transport can keep communities moving during disruptions and create opportunities for changing travel behaviour.

The Western Australian (WA) Active Transport Infrastructure Policy will be outlined, highlighting its role in ensuring the inclusion of active transport in major transport projects. This policy guides the provision of active transport infrastructure along state-controlled roads and rail corridors and underpins the importance of biking, walking, and micromobility in the State's transport system.

A case study on the Armadale Line Active Transport (ALAT) initiative will showcase how temporary infrastructure improvements and behaviour change strategies effectively kept people moving during an 18-month rail closure.

To deliver ALAT, the Department of Transport WA collaborated with State agencies and local governments to encourage communities to walk, wheel, and ride for local trips. The project's methodology was grounded in best practice behaviour change principles, focusing on Capability, Opportunity, and Motivation – key factors in habit change.

The project enabled innovative engagement with school communities, strengthening connection and resilience during disruptions through initiatives like School Open Street events and parent intervention trials. Insights from the ALAT Project have enhanced best practices for integrating active transport solutions into major network disruptions.

Key takeaways will highlight best practices for integrating active transport into broader transport projects, equipping attendees to support similar initiatives in their own contexts.

Full Abstract Proposal

This presentation will focus on integrating active transport into major transport projects and disruptions to maintain connectivity and support community resilience. It will demonstrate how active transport can facilitate movement and create opportunities for changing travel behaviour.

The Western Australian (WA) Active Transport Infrastructure Policy will be outlined, highlighting its role in ensuring active transport is included in major transport projects. This policy guides the provision of active transport infrastructure along state-controlled roads and rail corridors, emphasising the vital role of biking, walking, and micromobility in the State's transport system.

A case study on the Armadale Line Active Transport (ALAT) project will showcase how temporary infrastructure improvements and behaviour change strategies effectively kept communities moving during an 18-month rail closure. This closure was necessitated by three significant METRONET rail projects: the Byford Rail Extension, the Victoria Park-Canning Level Crossing Removal, and the Thornlie-Cockburn Link, which disrupted travel habits and increased motor traffic in the area, prompting the community to reassess how they get around.

Led by the Department of Transport WA in partnership with METRONET and local governments, the ALAT project included a broad suite of interventions to encourage walking, wheeling, and riding for local trips.

This included shutdown-specific active travel maps to increase community awareness of local routes and points of interest, as well as bespoke targeted events, communications, and one-on-one support in group settings to motivate residents to set goals and take local trips.

Additionally, the Department partnered with 14 schools along the line through the Your Move Schools behaviour change program to influence cultural change in school communities. This multi-faceted approach included active transport infrastructure upgrades, bike education, school active travel festivals, and student leadership labs to foster long-term systemic change. The project enabled innovative engagement with school communities, enhancing connections and resilience during disruptions through initiatives like School Open Street events and parent intervention trials.

Insights from the ALAT Project have improved the understanding of best practices for integrating active transport solutions into major network disruptions and are now being applied on broader network disruptions.

Key takeaways will highlight these best practices for embedding active transport into broader transport projects, equipping attendees with the knowledge to support similar initiatives in their own contexts.

Key links:

- Active Transport Infrastructure Policy available at <https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/activetransport/planning-and-design-guidance.asp>
- Armadale Line Active Travel project overview and video <https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/activetransport/armadale-line.asp>

Presentation Outline (15 minutes with ability to shorten/expand)

1. Introduction to the Active Transport Branch of the Department of Transport WA (2 minutes)

- Presenter introduction.
- Quick overview of the WA Active Transport branch's mission and objectives.

2. Presentation Focus (1 minute)

- Integrating active transport into major transport projects and disruptions to maintain connectivity, support community resilience, and encourage mode shift.

3. Overview of the Western Australian Active Transport Infrastructure Policy (1 minutes)

- Explanation of the policy and its importance in incorporating active transport into major projects.
- Role of the policy in guiding active transport infrastructure along state-controlled roads and rail corridors.

4. Case Study: Armadale Line Active Transport (ALAT) Project (3 minutes)

- Description of the ALAT project and its objectives.
- Impact of the 18-month rail closure caused by three significant METRONET projects.
- Discussion on how these projects disrupted travel habits and increased motor traffic, prompting the community to reassess how they get around.

5. Interventions Implemented in the ALAT Project (3 minutes)

- Collaboration between the Department of Transport WA, METRONET, and local governments.
- Broad suite of interventions encouraging walking, wheeling, and riding for local trips:
 - Shutdown-specific active travel maps to increase community awareness.
 - Targeted events, communications, and one-on-one support to motivate residents.
 - Partnership with 14 schools through the Your Move Schools behaviour change program to influence cultural change in school communities.

6. Innovative Engagement Strategies (2 minutes)

- Initiatives to enhance connections and resilience during disruptions, including:
 - School Open Street events
 - Parent intervention trials
- Multi-faceted approach: active transport infrastructure upgrades, bike education, school active travel festivals, and student leadership labs.

7. Insights and Best Practices (2 minutes)

- Lessons learned from the ALAT Project regarding integrating active transport into major network disruptions.
- Application of these insights to broader network disruptions.

8. Key Takeaways (1 minute)

- Advice for attendees on how to apply the insights and best practices from the ALAT Project to support active transport initiatives in their own contexts.
- Everyone needs an Active Transport Infrastructure Policy! And make hay while the sun shines!