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City of Sydney learner drivers and cyclist safety plan gets a green light

Cyclist safety will be boosted after the City of Sydney council unanimously approved a plan put forward by Councillor Angela Vithoukas on Monday night.

In proposing the notice of motion Cllr Vithoukas said 'the Amy Gillett Foundation has highlighted that new drivers represent one of the most collision prone road users and bike related education for new motorists is desperately needed. My proposal will work towards addressing this issue by boosting driver awareness and cyclist safety in the City of Sydney'.

City of Sydney staff will write to NSW Roads and Maritime Services and obtain guidance about developing the City of Sydney's free workshops for learner drivers under 25 years of age to include specific instruction about driving in the City of Sydney LGA and the interaction with bicycle traffic.

Some areas for focus include supervising drivers when:

- turning across separated bike paths into driveways and right of way.
- learning basic road rules about sharing the road with cyclists similar to those currently outlined in the NSW Roads and Maritime Services Road Users' Handbook.
- interacting with bicycle traffic and motor vehicle drivers on separated and non-separated roads and pathways in the Local Government Area.

'We know that bicycle travel in the LGA is on the increase with 60,098 daily bike trips reported in 2014. Both cyclists and motorists are often unclear about road rules that relate to their individual modes of transport and how they interact with each other. This initiative is not anti-motorist or anti-cyclist, it's about acknowledging that both modes of transport exist alongside each other in the LGA. It's about respect and about safety', Cllr Vithoukas said.

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