



METRO EAST BICYCLE USER GROUP INC.

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Submission to Council Plan and Budget process, October 2022

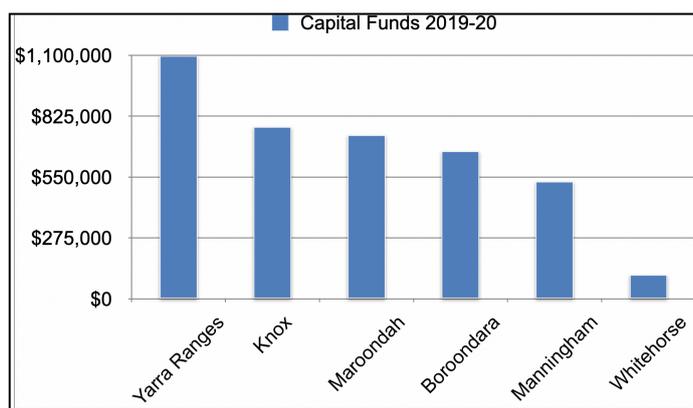
Preamble

MeBUG welcomes Council's improved community consultation initiative and in particular, the new approach of 'front ending' community consultation to improve the prospects of community input.

We offer here, a comprehensive list of projects that facilitate cycling and active transport, that Council should consider for inclusion in the forthcoming budget and subsequent budgets.

Historical context

In several previous budgets, MeBUG has advocated with little success, for Council to invest appropriate amounts for cycling and active transport. There has been essentially no significant investment apart from the Easy Rides project, since the 2017/18 budget. A comparison in 2019-20 showed Whitehorse investment well below adjacent municipalities.

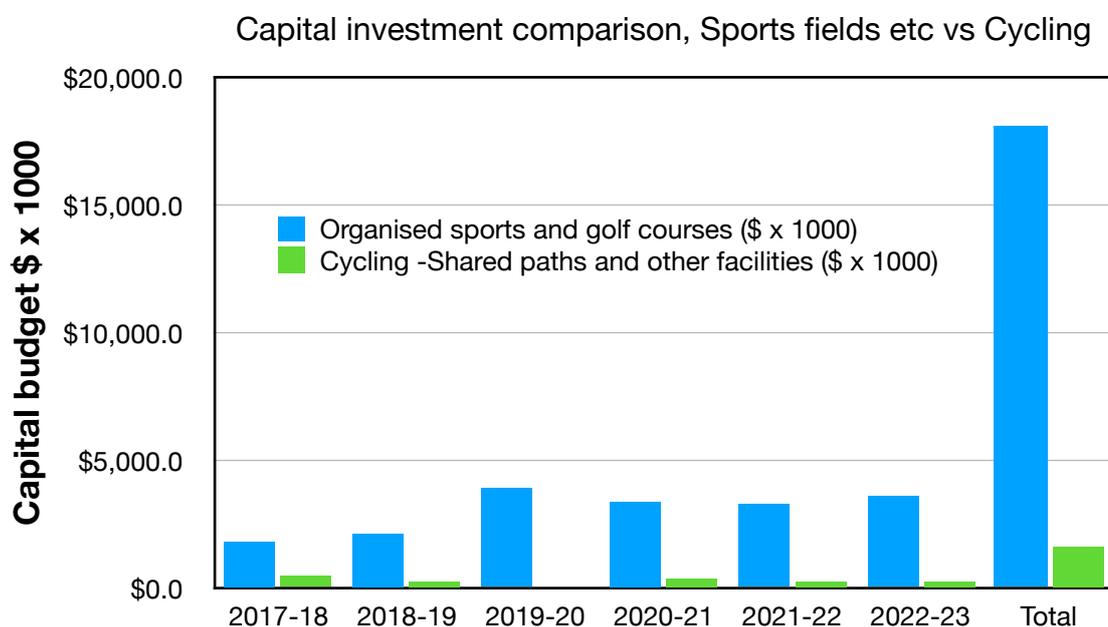


Cycling vs Sports fields - is the balance right?

We understand that organised sport and sporting clubs are an important part of our community and require and should receive Council-provided and maintained facilities. These are inherently costly to establish and maintain.

Studies indicate¹ that participation in 12 major sports such as football, cricket, golf and suchlike is only 15% across all age groups. It is heavily skewed to children up to age 14. Among working age adults, participation is only around 6 to 8%. The Victorian government Cycling Strategy² states that 17.2% of the Melbourne population cycled in the week prior to the 2017 study. From this, we can infer that around 10% of the population are regular cyclists. This is despite the impediments to cycling because of the paucity of safe interconnected separated paths, which the Whitehorse Cycling Strategy acknowledges is a deterrent to around 60% of the population.

It is likely that similar numbers of people participate in organised sport as those who regularly cycle. Yet the investment historically is overwhelmingly devoted to sports fields and organised sport. The graph below shows the comparison from the last six council capital budgets



At the very least, this calls for significant rebalancing of financial resources allocated between the two.

Alignment with Council strategies and policies

Cycling and Active Transport investment aligns with Council's

- Sustainability Strategy;
- Climate Response Plan, Theme 3; and
- Health and Wellbeing Plan.

It is also an important area for investment bearing in mind Council's recent declaration of a Climate Emergency.

¹ Sport Participation Rates-Aggregation of 12 sports, Victoria 2017, Table 3

² Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018-28, p9

Proposals for consideration for funding in 2022/23 and beyond

MeBUG has updated its list of cycle related projects for consideration for future budgets. These are listed in the Appendix.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Hassett", is displayed on a light-colored rectangular background.

Michael Hassett
Secretary, MeBUG

MeBUG Cycling project proposals for Whitehorse Council - Revised October, 2022

Ref #	MeBUG Priority	Item	Justification	Council response 4/4/2019 (paraphrased unless otherwise noted)	Comment
3	1	<p>Remove access impediments to Box Hill to Ringwood Shared path at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Harvey Norman/Home Hardware (b) McGlone Street Mitcham (c) Richards St Mitcham (d) Install wayfinding signs along and in environs of the path (e) Provide kerb crossovers at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Terra Cotta Drive, Nunawading ii. Tennyson Street, Mitcham 	Improving safety for path users as well as efficient and direct access.	Administrative issues regarding responsibility. Safety concerns re Harvey Norman lane	Item (a) is now known to be in Council jurisdiction, contrary to earlier advice that this was not a Council road or lane. Safety should be assessed by comparing the safety of the present need for cyclists to ride on Springvale Rd and Maroondah Hwy. Safety concerns around Harvey Norman lane not justified see our survey dated 6/11/17, which showed an average of 1 vehicle every 2.20 minutes compared to thousands per hour on Whitehorse & Springvale Roads. Oliver Avenue now completed. The others about the main path and maintenance responsibility issues should not delay these improvements. Coordination should be straight forward in consultation with DoT (formerly VicRoads).
6	1	<p>Work with Melbourne Water to construct/reinstate the Shared Path on Melbourne Water Pipe Reserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Construct new section from Ballantyne Street to Mahoneys Rd roundabout. (b) Widen footpaths along Burwood Hwy to eliminate gaps in shared path 	Major cycling corridor		Reconstruction by Melbourne Water following pipe replacement works mid 2023 anticipated.
15	1	Woodhouse Grove & Mitta Av, Box Hill Nth. Construct short length of shared path to improve cycle linkage on Bushy Creek path.	Currently cyclists have awkward kerb crossings and have no option but to ride on the footpath.	"Needs further review"	Was to be constructed late 2021 with Commonwealth grant funds. Nothing further appears to have happened.

Appendix: MeBUG proposals for Council Budget 2022-23

Ref #	MeBUG Priority	Item	Justification	Council response 4/4/2019 (paraphrased unless otherwise noted)	Comment
24	1	Construct shared path along west side of Holland Avenue Burwood. Work with VicRoads to improve signal crossing to allow safe crossing by pedestrians and cyclists to McComas Grove leading to Gardinars Creek Trail and Lundgren Chain	Current crossing is dangerous due to short timing cycle and absence of pedestrian/cyclist provision	No plans	Dept of Transport (VicRoads) agree in principle (2/10/2018) Deakin University generally supportive (6/8/2019)
25	1	Separated path along Ely Road to connect Holland Gully path with Gardiners Creek path via Boardman Close	Major east-West Route		Ely Road is very busy and justifies a separated path for safety
28	1	Construct an off road path along the south side of Burwood Highway from Morack Road to the Burwood Highway service lane. (refer https://mebug.org.au/projects/burwood-highway-arterial-cycling-link/)	Provides a safe cycling connection to the service road and would be a component of a cycling route from Knox to Deakin University.	Rejected in letter dated 29/8/2019	Should be reconsidered
31	1	Widen footpath along west side of Springvale Road between Whitehorse Road and the new Community Hub	Provide safe cycling route between the Box Hill to Ringwood path and the Community Hub		
33	1	Masons Road Blackburn retaining basin. Provide DDA compliant pathway from Masons Road to top of retaining wall.	Enable cyclists and mobility impaired people to access pathway between Masons Road and Boulton Road		
34	1	Healesville Freeway Reserve - East. Work with Parks Victoria and Department of Transport to provide a separated path connecting to the Dandenong Creek Trail	To maximise the connectivity of the HFR trail with the broader cycling path network		

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35	1	Healesville Freeway Reserve - West. Work with the Department of Transport to provide a signalised crossing of Springvale road at Mock Street. Provide sharrows and way-finding signs along Mock Street as appropriate	To maximise the connectivity of the HFR trail with the broader cycling path network		
37	1	(a) Designate the existing footpath on the East side of Springvale Road between Walkers Road and Whitehorse Road, as a shared path with line markings and signage as appropriate. (b) Designate the Northern service lane of Whitehorse Road, between Springvale Road and the Civic Centre as contra flow for cyclists, with appropriate road markings and signage.	Safe and legal cycle access to the Civic Centre.		
2	2	Construct 530 metres of new shared path on rail reserve North side from Oliver Avenue Bridge to Moncrief Road	Provide safe access to Nunawading commercial area from Box Hill to Ringwood shared path	No funding. requires VicTrack approval	Has Council pursued VicTrack approval?
4	2	Shared path along north side of Whitehorse Road from Middleborough Road to Bolton Street	Widen existing footpath to provide safe route to Bushy Creek path via local roads	Accepted as a long term project	

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19	2	Dorking Road/Whitehorse Road Intersection. (a) Provide cut through to link Dorking Road with Whitehorse Road service lane on North-East corner. (b) Improve traffic light configuration and/or phasing so Northbound cyclists can cross and proceed in one phase of lights.	For Eastbound riders leaving Dorking Rd. Avoid inconvenient and frustrating delay.	Low priority Easy Rides Route Could be done at Council expense	Council accept in principle
21	2	Springvale Road service lanes between Canterbury Road and Highbury Road. Provide cut-throughs and footpath widening (where no service lanes) to provide cycle routes both north and south bound.	General cycling safety. Will require joint action with DoT. MeBUG can furnish further details.	Long term action years 8-10 of strategy	Take up as part of a major strategic initiative in partnership with state Government.
23	2	Route markings Mullauna College to Mitcham station via Halliday Park, Fellowes and Edward Streets.		Not on easy rides route therefore a low priority	Council accept in principle. Consider for coming budget round.
26	2	Construct a shared path along the west side of Deep Creek Road Micham from Schwerkolt Cottage to Maroondah Hwy	Provides cycling access for school children attending Antonio park Primary School. Also a convenient interconnection between the Box Hill to Ringwood path and the Mullum Creek trail.		
30	2	Widen footpath at east end of Heath St Blackburn	Heavy use by cyclists cycling to or from the Gardiners Creek Trail		

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36	2	North-South arterial cycling route additional to current Easy Rides plan. Install sharrows and signage as necessary along Koonung and Williams Roads Blackburn North, Station Street and Main Street Blackburn and Orchard Grove and Samuel Road Blackburn South. Introduce 40kph speed limits on all these roads.	Cycling safety. These streets, especially Main Street are popular cycling routes.		
9	3	Delineate/mark wide sidewalk along Whitehorse Rd from Metropolitan Avenue to Springvale Road, as a shared path	Access to megamile and Nunawading community precinct	Reluctance to modify footpaths. To be considered as part of Cycling Strategy	
17	3	Severn Street Box Hill. Signage e.g.sharrows defining East-West cycling route via pedestrian lights and Melrose Street.		Low priority Easy Rides route	
18	3	Nelson and Saxton roads Box Hill. Signage e.g.sharrows defining North South cycling route connecting to Box Hill gardens.		Low priority Easy Rides route	
20	3	Mont Albert Road/Elgar Road intersection. Additional Cycle/pedestrian crossing aligning with westbound lane of Mont Albert Road.	Would remove existing need for westbound cyclists to wait for two phases of lights.	Could be done at Council expense	
32	3	Canterbury Road south side between pedestrian bridge and Hay Street, Box Hill South. Improve/widen footpath and provide signage directing to Gardiners Creek Trail	Improved ease of use		