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Wednesday 10 May 2023

Record no. 23/40079  
Contact: Ryan Hood  
Phone: 9262 6534

Michael Hassett  
Metro-East Bicycle User Group Inc  
PO Box 2024, Blackburn South, 3130  
[mebug@mebug.org.au](mailto:mebug@mebug.org.au)

Dear Michael,

### **RE: WHITEHORSE 2023/24 BUDGET ENGAGEMENT PROCESS**

Thank you for your feedback on behalf of the Metro-East Bicycle User Group to the Budget 2023/24 community engagement process.

The Local Government Act 2020 has changed how we engage with our community on the development of key strategic documents such as our Annual Budget, resulting in more meaningful and sincere community engagement. Last year we asked for community ideas, projects and priority actions much earlier to give Council more time to consider building them into the Proposed Budget 2023/24.

Council officers analysed the Council Plan and Budget survey responses and group submissions. We collated this into broad themes to present to Councillors for their careful consideration (along with a copy of the verbatim responses). This information is being used to inform the revised Council Plan and development of the Proposed Budget 2023/24.

The top five themes to emerge were:

- Community infrastructure
- Hardcourts
- Open space amenity
- Ovals / reserves
- Paths and trails

We also shared this information with relevant Council departments for consideration as part of planning processes, including Engineering & Investment.

Below is summary of Council's position in regards to your proposed items for consideration in the Proposed Budget 2023/24.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1.	<p>Remove access impediments to Box Hill to Ringwood Shared path at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Harvey Norman/Home Hardware</li> <li>(b) McGlone Street Mitcham</li> <li>(c) Richards St Mitcham</li> <li>(d) Install wayfinding signs along and in environs of the path</li> <li>(e) Provide kerb crossovers at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Terra Cotta Drive, Nunawading</li> <li>ii. Tennyson Street, Mitcham</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Council will be formally responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Box Hill to Ringwood Shared Use Path once a licence agreement is confirmed between Council and VicTrack. Council has previously and on several occasions requested VicTrack to facilitate the preparation of this licence agreement. To date, Council is yet to receive a licence agreement for comment and endorsement. Once this licence agreement has been entered into, Council may be in a position to consider any potential and viable connection points between the Box Hill to Ringwood shared use path and surrounding areas. We acknowledge issues such as land ownership, access, safety risks and intersection treatments would need to be carefully considered when reviewing any potential connection points.</p>
2.	<p>Work with Melbourne Water to construct/reinstate the Shared Path on Melbourne Water Pipe Reserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Construct new section from Ballantyne Street to Mahoneys Rd roundabout.</li> <li>(b) Widen footpaths along Burwood Hwy to eliminate gaps in shared path</li> </ul>	<p>Melbourne Water will construct a new shared path between Canterbury Road and Rooks Road after completing the pipe upgrade works. They will reinstate the existing shared path south of Ballantyne Street that will be impacted by their upgrade works. Melbourne Water are upgrading the water pipe between Ballantyne Street and Burwood Highway. They have advised they are approximately 1 month ahead of schedule. They will progressively upgrade the pipe from Ballantyne Street to Mitcham Road following the current works. The shared path will be replaced upon completion of the works being delivered.</p>

Item	Description	Comment
		<p>a) The section along Mahoneys Road has several challenges including existing trees and utility poles, as well as being along a busy school frontage. It is likely that a path would need to encroach into the school property.</p> <p>b) The footpath on the north side of Burwood Hwy is located within private property of the existing shops.</p>
3.	Woodhouse Grove & Mitta Av, Box Hill Nth. Construct short length of shared path to improve cycle linkage on Bushy Creek path.	This was constructed in late 2022.
4.	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 Gardiners Creek Trail and Lundgren Chain.	This area is undergoing significant change with impacts from the Suburban Rail Loop.
5.	Separated path along Ely Road to connect Holland Gully path with Gardiners Creek path via Boardman Close.	A separate path is not feasible without significant tree removal or the removal of on-street parking which is not supported by Council.
6.	Construct an off road path along the south side of Burwood Highway from Morack Road to the Burwood Highway service lane. (refer <a href="https://mebug.org.au/projects/burwood-highway-arterialcycling-link/">https://mebug.org.au/projects/burwood-highway-arterialcycling-link/</a> )	Council has a budget proposal to investigate Burwood Hwy service road bicycle connections, as part of the Cycling Strategy implementation for the next financial year. Note these connections fall within the arterial road reserve and would be the responsibility of the Victorian Government to approve and construct.
7.	Widen footpath along west side of Springvale Road between Whitehorse Road and the new Community Hub	This was not approved by the Department of Transport when it was considered as part of the development for the Nunawading Community Hub.
8.	Masons Road Blackburn retarding basin. Provide DDA compliant pathway from Masons Road to top of retaining wall.	Council is not opposed to this idea however, it is a Melbourne Water asset on their land, and therefore they would be responsible for this improvement.

Item	Description	Comment
9.	Healesville Freeway Reserve - East. Work with Parks Victoria and Department of Transport to provide a separated path connecting to the Dandenong Creek Trail.	Council is working with Parks Victoria to ensure they provide safe connections to the existing shared path network.
10.	Healesville Freeway Reserve - West. Work with the Department of Transport to provide a signalised crossing of Springvale Road at Mock Street. Provide sharrows and wayfinding signs along Mock Street as appropriate.	Council has initiated discussions with the Department of Transport/Department of Transport and Planning regarding this connection to the Pipe Track.
11.	(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.	There are many safety and design guidelines that need to be considered when designing shared paths and contra-flow bike lanes, such as (Austroads Guidelines – Guide to Road Design Part 6A – Paths to Walking and Cycling). This route would have several challenges.
12.	Construct 530 metres of new shared path on rail reserve north side from Oliver Avenue Bridge to Moncrief Road.	Council cannot obtain a licence agreement from VicTrack for the existing shared use path. It is considered that an agreement for a new connection that was previously not approved by VicTrack when the existing shared use path was constructed will be even more challenging.
13.	Shared path along north side of Whitehorse Road from Middleborough Road to Bolton Street.	There are several tree impacts that need to be considered, as well as further path connections that would link to this suggested shared use path.
14.	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 north-bound cyclists can cross and proceed in one phase of lights.	(a) Detailed site investigations and an assessment with concepts is warranted to determine feasibility and the possibility to undertake intersection modifications to assist in a more linear and accessible cycle path through this intersection. Subject to the findings of the site investigations and detailed assessment, this may progress

Item	Description	Comment
		<p>to detailed design and construction stages over future years.</p> <p>(b) Changes to signal phasing at this intersection is the jurisdiction of the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). Council officers have and will discuss this matter further with the DTP.</p>
15.	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.	This is quite complex as there are long gaps between some sections of service road, as well as locations where service roads only exist on one side of the road. This proposal will require approval from the DTP (Department of Transport and Planning) being the Coordinating Road Authority.
16.	Route markings Mullauna College to Mitcham station via Halliday Park, Fellows and Edward streets.	This is not considered a priority project at this time.
17.	Construct a shared path along the west side of Deep Creek Road Micham from Schwerkolt Cottage to Maroondah Hwy.	This section is not part of a cycling network that would require connection to other existing cycle paths or shared use paths. Initial site assessment has identified some challenges due to grades, significant trees and other assets. Further site assessment and detailed design of option(s) is warranted and will require approval from the DTP (Department of Transport and Planning) being the Coordinating Road Authority. Council and DTP considers this to be a low priority.
18.	Widen footpath at east end of Heath Street Blackburn.	Existing trees and a constricted environment preclude the installation of footpath widening. Sharrows have recently been implemented on Heath Street to accommodate cyclist.
19.	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	The route described in this action includes several busy roads like Williams and Main Street. Council Officers recognise there is a gap in the Easy Ride Network in this area and are developing plans

Item	Description	Comment
	Blackburn and Orchard Grove and Samuel Road Blackburn South. Introduce 40km/h speed limits on all these roads.	to address this – with routes to be implemented in the current 22/23 financial year.
20.	Delineate/mark wide sidewalk along Whitehorse Road from Metropolitan Avenue to Springvale Road, as a shared path.	There are many safety and design guidelines that need to be considered when designing shared paths, such as Austroads Guidelines – Guide to Road Design Part 6A – Paths to Walking and Cycling. Council and DTP considers this to be a low priority.
21.	Severn Street Box Hill. Signage e.g. sharrows defining east-west cycling route via pedestrian lights and Melrose Street.	This is a lower priority Easy Ride Route.
22.	Nelson and Saxton Roads Box Hill. Signage e.g. sharrows defining north-south cycling route connecting to Box Hill gardens.	This is part of Easy Ride Route NS2. Saxton Street was line marked in 2021 when the road was re-surfaced. Council is investigating options for Nelson Road near the hospital precinct.
23.	Mont Albert Road/Elgar Road intersection. Additional cycle/pedestrian crossing aligning with westbound lane of Mont Albert Road.	This intersection is the jurisdiction of the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). Any changes to the intersection layout will require DTP approval and funding.
24.	Canterbury Road south side between pedestrian bridge and Hay Street, Box Hill South. Improve/widen footpath and provide signage directing to Gardiners Creek Trail.	Council understands the footbridge is a Department of Transport and Planning asset. From street view, the footpath is narrow with existing light poles creating squeeze points. The road is cutting in this section, restricting the available width, which may be problematic requiring further site assessment and consideration.

The Proposed Budget 2023/24 will be presented to Council for endorsement on Monday 8 May, before being on display via the Your Say Whitehorse engagement platform from 10-24 May. Final adoption of the Budget is expected on Monday 26 June 2023.

Council is also holding two information sessions on the Proposed Budget 2023/24 that you are welcome to attend. Responses provided in this letter were prepared by relevant Council officers who plan to attend the information sessions and can answer any questions you may have.

**When:** Wednesday 17 May, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

**Where:** Box Hill Town Hall

or

**When:** Thursday 18 May, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

**Where:** Civic Centre Nunawading, Willis Room

To receive a notification of when the Proposed Budget 2023/24 is available to the public, please subscribe to our Your Say project page here:

<https://yoursay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/council-plan-budget>

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark red ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Letic', is centered on a light beige rectangular background.

**Lisa Letic**  
**DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES**