

9.2

REVISITING YOUR STREET YOUR SAY GROUP B

The following people made 2minute submissions on the item:

- Sally Moxham
- Claire Hayes
- Karl Charikar
- Susanne Newton
- Peter Gonis

7.51pm - Cr. O'Brien left the meeting and returned at 7.55pm

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to provide information about the impacts of suspending four transport projects currently in delivery, and to reprioritise four other projects from the *Your Street, Your Say* Group B project list for delivery. The request for this information was made by Council at its meeting on 16 December 2024.

The *Your Street, Your Say* program is the main way that Council identifies and endorses capital works projects that improve transport safety and access. It is also one of the ways that Council implements its Transport Strategy and fulfils its role as the municipal road authority. Community engagement is a vital part of the program, which is used to support identification of the locations to make changes, and to refine design solutions.

A summary of the 8 projects that make up the scope of this report has been created as **Appendix A**. This summary includes detailed information about the reasons the location was chosen for a safety improvement, community consultation feedback, technical analysis, final proposal and collision information.

There have been collisions resulting in personal injury at some of the project locations within the last 5 years. Patterns of collisions are used along-side industry standards for road safety assessment and safe system design principles. This allows comparison of options and informs recommendations that improve road safety. Without intervention, collision rates are unlikely to improve.

The efficient use of Council's limited resources to maximise the amount of change in safety, and to prepare for future grant opportunities, is important for Darebin's road users. The project delivery funding and current expenditure details of all Transport Safety Improvement projects is provided in **Appendix B**. This table provides information about the amount of funding that could be redirected if a decision is made to stop some projects and reprioritise others.

There are reputational, community engagement participation, and sunk and ongoing cost risks of moving away from projects that have been started. There are also liability risks Council will be exposed to if a decision is taken to not act on a road safety risk that has been assessed as extreme using national guidelines.

Considering the collision history and road safety assessments, officers recommend that the current transport projects that have received funding in 2024-25 continue to be delivered, and that Council prioritises the four projects (not currently funded) for upcoming grant opportunities.

Council has the option to reprioritise projects, as foreshadowed in its 16 December 2024 resolution.

If Council chooses to reprioritise four projects (shown at **Attachment A**) to start delivery in 2024-25, \$90,000 and between 6-9 months would be needed to deliver the full scope of the design packages. Due to the limited time remaining in 2024/25, only half of the scope could be delivered requiring \$45,000.

Options for Council to consider for allocating funding include:

- stopping work on some projects funded for 2024-25, and progressing others by redirecting budget allocation from partially completed projects, to projects that Council chooses to reprioritise, or
- continue existing projects in delivery, and commence delivery for the additional four projects this financial year by:
 - accessing capital funding from the 2025/26 financial year by reducing the allocation next year
 - considering grant opportunities to progress certain projects when grant funding becomes available.

Officers are preparing a report to Council for their ordinary meeting in February with information about upcoming grant opportunities that could be used to deliver Council endorsed transport safety improvement projects.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Continues with:
 - a. the trial safety improvement project that will deter rat-running traffic along South Crescent
 - b. the trial safety improvement project to introduce a one-way section of road on Railway Place between Station Street and Gillies Street.
 - c. the road safety feasibility studies informed by community consultation and technical analysis for:
 - i. Victoria Road between South Crescent and Separation Street
 - ii. Victoria Road between Separation Street and Darebin Road.
- (2) Prioritises the following projects for grant opportunities and receives a report in February on how to accelerate the delivery of these and other projects across Darebin:
 - a. Design and install a raised intersection at Separation Street and Perry Street with zebra crossings across all four sides of the intersection (subject to Department of Transport and Planning approval), near Perry Street Childcare Centre and Fairfield Primary School.
 - b. Consult Thornbury High School and undertake surveys to understand whether people are mostly entering the school off Matisi Street near Collins Street or north of Theobald Street. Then reposition and construct the wombat crossing to suit desire-line.
 - c. Raised zebra crossings across all approaches to roundabouts on Newcastle Street between Dundas Street and Pender Street near Pender's Grove Primary School and Thornbury Kindergarten.

- d. Install a raised intersection at Jones Street and Collins Street, with zebra crossings across all four sides of the intersection, near Thornbury High School.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. Tsalkos

That Council:

- (1) Prioritises the following top two projects, as part of the Your Street Your Say Group B program:
 - a. Design and install a raised intersection at Separation Street and Perry Street with zebra crossings across all four sides of the intersection (subject to Department of Transport and Planning approval), near Perry Street Childcare Centre and Fairfield Primary School.
 - b. Consult Thornbury High School and undertake surveys to understand whether people are mostly entering the school off Matisi Street near Collins Street or north of Theobald Street. Then reposition and construct the wombat crossing on Matisi Street to suit desire-line.
- (2) Notes the following projects be considered for grant opportunities and receives a report in February 2025 on how to accelerate the delivery of these and other projects across Darebin:
 - a. Investigate further options to provide safe crossings for cyclists and pedestrians near the entrance to Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre.
 - b. Investigate options to improve road safety along Victoria Road between South Crescent and Separation Street (feasibility study), for cyclists and pedestrians, but not physically separated bike lanes.
 - c. Install a raised zebra crossings across all approaches to roundabouts on Newcastle Street between Dundas Street and Pender Street near Pender's Grove Primary School and Thornbury Kindergarten.
 - d. Install a raised intersection at Jones Street and Collins Street, with zebra crossings across all four sides of the intersection, near Thornbury High School.
- (3) Removes the following projects from Your Street Your Say Group B:
 - a. Install a trial solution along South Crescent near Mason Street. If the trial is unsuccessful, remove all parking from the south side of South Crescent between Mason Street and Plant Street.
 - b. Investigate options for separated bike lanes on Victoria Road, between Darebin Road and Separation Street near (Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre). Please note, Council is to continue its investigations for further treatments to provide safe crossings for pedestrians and cyclists near the entrance to the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre [as per (3)(a) above].
 - c. Install a trial one-way (westbound) on Railway place between Station Street to Gillies Street
- (4) Works with the State Government and VicTrack to find a suitable cycling solution on the VicTrack land along the south side of South Crescent.

Cr Jelley proposed an amendment to the motion.

8.17pm - The Mayor called for a 5 minute adjournment to allow for officers to provide advice in relation to the amendment proposed by Cr Jelley.

8.22pm – The meeting resumed.

The mover and seconder did not accept the amendment. Cr Jelley withdrew her amendment and foreshadowed an amended motion if the substantive motion was lost.

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-007

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. Tsalkos

That Council:

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 - a. Design and install a raised intersection at Separation Street and Perry Street with zebra crossings across all four sides of the intersection (subject to Department of Transport and Planning approval), near Perry Street Childcare Centre and Fairfield Primary School.
 - b. Consult Thornbury High School and undertake surveys to understand whether people are mostly entering the school off Matisi Street near Collins Street or north of Theobald Street. Then reposition and construct the wombat crossing on Matisi Street to suit desire-line.
- (2) Notes the following projects be considered for grant opportunities and receives a report in February 2025 on how to accelerate the delivery of these and other projects across Darebin:
 - a. Investigate further options to provide safe crossings for cyclists and pedestrians near the entrance to Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre.
 - b. Investigate options to improve road safety along Victoria Road between South Crescent and Separation Street (feasibility study), for cyclists and pedestrians, but not physically separated bike lanes.
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- c. Install a trial one-way (westbound) on Railway place between Station Street to Gillies Street
- (4) Works with the State Government and VicTrack to find a suitable cycling solution on the VicTrack land along the south side of South Crescent.

CARRIED

For: Cr's Arturi, Boglis OAM, Dimitriadis, Greco, Tsalkos, and Olaris OAM (6)

Against: Cr's Jelley, O'Brien and Sangster (3)