



## Department of Transport

GPO Box 2392  
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[www.transport.vic.gov.au](http://www.transport.vic.gov.au)  
DX 210074

Mr. Simon McMillan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Whitehorse City Council  
Locked Bag 2  
**NUNAWADING VIC 3131**

Dear Mr McMillan

### **BOX HILL TO RINGWOOD SHARED USE PATH PROJECT LABURNUM SECTION REQUEST FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL**

I refer to the remaining section of the Box Hill to Ringwood Shared use path known as the Laburnum Section and would like to extend my thanks to your officers who have assisted in resolving project issues and providing valuable insight to the history of the project.

The purpose of this letter is to obtain approval from Whitehorse Council for the path alignment between Middleborough Road, Box Hill and Blackburn Station, Blackburn.

#### **Background**

The Box Hill to Ringwood shared use path project has been developed and delivered over a number of years as part of various level crossing removal projects as well as separate contracts. Most of the path has now been successfully delivered and has added a significant and well patronised asset to the active transport network. The remaining section from Middleborough Road, Box Hill to Blackburn Station, Blackburn is another step closer to completion following recent community sessions.

VicRoads has continued to liaise with Whitehorse Council officers to review issues and consult on options for this section of the path. We have met regularly with local bicycle groups including WATAG and MeBug and interested residents to test community sentiment on a variety of options.

Significant stakeholder engagement has been undertaken over several years in the lead up to selecting the final alignment including a number of presentations to City of Whitehorse Councilors, meetings and workshops with local bicycle interest groups, resident and trader door knocks and community surveys, and more recently community information sessions held in October 2019.

#### **Selected Alignment for the Laburnum section**

During the development phase of the project several alignments were developed and reviewed with input from Whitehorse Council officers and key stakeholders. These options have now been discounted for various reasons.

In developing the selected alignment, we focused on the key themes identified during previous engagement including: no loss of parking, minimal impact on trees and avoiding the use of Elmore Walk.



On balance the selected alignment best meets residents, users and the City of Whitehorse needs whilst delivering on the State Government commitment to build a connected bicycle route from Ringwood to Box Hill.

## **Community Engagement on selected alignment**

We have been actively engaged with officers from the City of Whitehorse to ensure all Council requirements are addressed in the selection of the alignment and development of the detailed design. We have also had a number of meetings with key bicycle representatives to work through options and design issues.

To ensure we have captured all issues related to the selected alignment 2 community information sessions have recently been held on:

- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October at Blackburn North Community Centre
- Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October at The Avenue Uniting Church in Blackburn.

The sessions were well attended by approximately 70 people including residents from the local area and cyclists who commute along the Box Hill to Ringwood Corridor.

Feedback from the community sessions was quite varied and included comments including support for:

- the selected alignment;
- the inclusion of 40km/hr speed limits along Laburnum Street;
- a separated path through Laburnum Park;
- maintaining on-street parking along Laburnum Street;
- minimising loss of vegetation;
- alternative alignments including Diggers Way, South Parade and Elmore Walk
- alternative alignments through Laburnum Station Park and
- alternative arrangements for Laburnum Street.

As part of this recent engagement a door knock of traders along Main Street was also undertaken to ensure they are fully aware of the features of the selected alignment.

A community engagement report containing a summary of issues raised at the community sessions and engagement with Main Street traders is attached in attachment 1.

## **Request for approval**

VicRoads is now seeking approval from Council on the alignment and detailed design of the Laburnum Section from Middleborough Road to Blackburn Station including through Laburnum Station Park, along Laburnum Street and along Main Street, as identified in the attached alignment plan in attachment 2.



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### **Next Steps**

With Council's approval, VicRoads will proceed with the documentation of contract specifications to allow for tendering in late 2019 and the award of a contract in early 2020.

We appreciate your earliest consideration of our request and would appreciate your response by 16 December 2019 to ensure we can meet committed delivery and budget timelines to deliver this project to the community by the middle of 2020.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Sharon Patterson, Manager Improvement Projects (Roads) on 9881 8074.

Yours sincerely

**MARK KOLIBA**  
**REGIONAL DIRECTOR – METRO SOUTH EAST**

**22 / 11 /2019**