

Minutes

City of Yarra Bicycle Advisory Committee

18 October 2017

Collingwood Town Hall, 6.30–8.00pm

Wurundjeri Room

Attendees: Michael Bond, Graeme Cross, Richard Ward, Tim Barker, Cr Jackie Fristacky, Steven Wright, Alyson Macdonald, Troy Parsons, Simon Exon, Peter Eckersley, Marcus Coghlan, Cr James Searle, Cr Mike McEvoy

Chair: Cr James Searle

1. Acknowledgement to Country

2. Paul Farren

Noted was the recent passing of local vintage bike enthusiast Paul Farren and a Condolence motion passed at Council 17 October.

ACTION: That a copy of this motion be attached to the Minutes for information (please see further below).

3. Richmond Wiggle

A member ride through this area had referred issues for attention re this east west route around Wertheim Street to Coppin Street. Other Missing linemarkings, symbols and signage from previous works this year will be installed in the next 10 business days. It was noted that some traffic safety concerns were raised about the dangers for schoolchildren from contraflow lanes going down one-way streets eg. Wertheim Street.

4. OBike MOU

A MOU has just been signed between the CoY, City of Melbourne, City of Port Phillip and OBike for the next 12 months. Other companies such as Mobike are likely to come into the market shortly and sign a similar agreement. The State Government are interested in replicating the MOU at a statewide level.

Concerns were raised that the MOU may be too onerous on OBike discouraging their business, supporting negative perceptions of bikes as clutter (compared with cars?) and not reflecting share bikes as consistent with Council's thrust to support active transport.

It was noted that additional bike parking has not been provided in the council area to accommodate share bikes. Examples were given from Shanghai and NYC of designated bike parking for dockless bikes that could be replicated in CoY. It was noted that the onus is on the operator to conduct business properly and that Council only have the role to facilitate.

ACTION: Marcus will lead a subgroup with Cr Searle, Troy, Tim and Graeme to review the MOU and make recommendations. After the review, Stuart Martin from CoY will make a presentation to BAC about compliance issues.

5. Coppin Street and Planning Scheme Subgroups

Subgroup have been formed but not met up yet. Concerns were raised about placemaking and the lack of active transport plans for the new Richmond High School currently being built, especially for cyclists travelling northbound on Coppin Street due to dooring. Contact has been made with the School Principal. It was suggested that the School have a drop-off exclusion zone.

ACTION: Michael Bond will lead the Coppin Street Subgroup and set up a meeting with the Principal in November to ascertain opportunities for improving cycling. Troy, Alyson and Marcus will form part of the Planning Scheme subgroup with Cr McEvoy.

6. Rushall Reserve Bypass

An update was given about the Rushall project where a 2.5m shared path will be built alongside the existing railway line for which a planning permit is being prepared. It was mentioned that there will likely be objectors and the project may end up being determined at VCAT.

7. Riding on footpaths

Concerns have been recently raised by a Fitzroy North resident about people cycling on footpaths. It was suggested that riding on footpaths should be allowed in most of the council area except busy retail strips where there is a lot of pedestrian activity. There are already many shared paths in the council where pedestrian/cyclist conflict has not been an issue. Since riding on footpaths is restricted to children under the age of 12, it was noted that opportunities for areas around Richmond High School and local streets should be looked at by the Subgroup, including advocacy to extend the footpath cycle age to 18.

8. Melbourne Water Project

There are currently two projects underway on the median on Alexandra Parade as well as the M41 water main from Fitzroy North to the CBD. Opportunities will be sought to put cycling facilities in when they are resheeting streets.

9. Station Street Closure

A 6-12-month trial closure is still to be determined by Council to assess the impact on adjacent streets. Issues were raised about safety on Canning Street for pedestrians and cyclists at the corner of Lee Street in particular, but it was noted that there was an absence of negative impacts during a recent closure for Melbourne Water sewer works. Comment was that Council should be more nimble in the way it implements trials so they can be introduced relatively quickly and cheaply, modified or removed as the trial progresses and data is collected. Community consultation is now available online and BAC members are encouraged to make submissions.

10. National Ride2Work Day

R2W Day took place today. CoY hosted and supported a number of different events and activities around the council area.

11. Hoddle Street Stage 1

An overview of the project was given. CoY will be making a submission to VicRoads taking on board concerns re local access. The CEO of VicRoads just announced he would resign at the end of the year. It was noted that clearways have been successful in other parts of Hoddle Street in improving traffic flow and the proposed design for Swan Street/Punt Road is an improvement for cyclists.

12. Wellington Street Stage 2

Final designs are still being approved by Council. There will be more information at the next BAC meeting.

13. Merri Creek Trail Path replacement project

The project will be completed by Friday the 27th of October. It consists of a 340m-long and 3m-wide concrete path between St Georges Road (Bundara Street Park) and Moreland boundary in North Fitzroy.

14. Coulsen Reserve (Clifton Hill) Ramped Boardwalk

The project has been stalled due to licensing issues with VicTrack. It is hoped that works will resume at the end of October and the ramp will open in December.

Next Meeting – *Wednesday the 20th of December at 6.30pm*

Memorial to Paul Farren, Yarra Council Meeting 17/10/17 - Cr Jackie Fristacky

I raise a motion of condolence to mark the death of legendary bicycle historian and collector in the City of Yarra, Paul Farren, who died on Thursday 5th October, after a 5-year struggle with cancer.

With his wife Charlie, Paul Farren was a legendary collector of vintage bicycles known not only in Australia, but also worldwide. The Paul & Charlie Farren bicycle collection housed in Richmond is one of the top 5 vintage bicycle collections in the world, with over 200 bicycles, all pre-dating 1905. This invaluable collection of vintage bikes, acquired and restored from worldwide sources, was the subject of a recent book "The Bicycle through Time, the Farren Collection".

On very rare occasions, the Paul and Charlie Farren private bike collection in Richmond has been opened to the public for a few hours. Farren, who never wore a helmet, was often seen cycling in a bowler hat to match his vintage clothing and one or other of his vintage bikes.

Yarrabug honoured Paul Farren with a 3CR feature on his life, and a Paul Farren film night. A further celebration of his life will be held at The Terrace tearooms in the Botanic Gardens on 22 November.

See: <http://www.yarrabug.org/2017/10/08/vale-paul-farren/>

Moved: Cr Fristacky

Seconded: Cr Jolly:

That Council notes the extraordinary contribution of Paul Farren to the promotion and heritage of cycling and that the Mayor write to Abbotsford Cycles asking that Council's condolences be passed on to his widow, Charlie Farren, his family, and friend at Abbotsford Cycles and the Vintage Cycle Club.

Carried unanimously