***City of Yarra***

***Minutes, Special Meeting Bicycle Advisory Committee***

***COVID Response***

29 May 2020 4.00–5.00pm, Virtual Meeting

**Attendees**: Cr Jackie Fristacky (Chair), Cr James Searle, Mayor Cr Misha Coleman, Peter Eckersley, Simon Exon (SE), Danny Millican, Nick Mahony (NM), Bruce Echberg (BE), Richard Ward (RW), Simon Osbourne (SO), Troy Parsons (TP), Anna Daniels, Susie Yousef, Rhys Thomas (RT), Marcus Coghlan (MC), Julian Wearne (JW), Peter Moran (PM), Bruce Phillips (BP), Alyson Macdonald (AM), Jeremy Lawrence (JL), Chris Starr (CS), Edward Crossland (EC)

**Apologies**: Michael Bond, Tim Barker

**Meeting Business:**

1. Welcome and introductions
2. RT outlined the meeting operation and virtual meeting etiquette
3. BP explained that council officers will brief councillors on June 1 and are already preparing a report to go to council on June 23.
4. **Overview COVID issues, impacts and outcomes?**

JF explained the special BAC meeting was requested by the Mayor to discuss emergency measures on lifting of COVID-19 restrictions with input sought from BAC members.

SE introduced COVID response impacts and changes in Yarra, particularly on mobility, accessibility to services and destinations (see presentation slides).

The Mayor sought identification of pop-up bike lanes for the post COVID opening-up in July.

NM emphasised need to cater for new/inexperienced cyclists. General consensus was that footpaths aren’t wide enough around schools, cafes, tram stops etc, and need for more outdoor space and parks to maintain social distancing.

1. **Potential COVID responses?**

RW identified limited footpath space outside Piedimonte, Fitzroy North suggesting converting angled parking to parallel, using bollards and extending the footpath.

RW also proposed installing 1.5m signs and speed limit signs to slow cyclists on the congested Capital City Trail. JF suggested a contraflow/bidirectional bike lane on Park Street, leaving the CCT shared path for pedestrians. This was supported.

JL suggested temporary parklets outside cafes like in Rotterdam. SO said that 3/12 local traders approached were interested in removing parking bays to create waiting space, or space for chairs/tables. Challenges are extensions to footpath trading permits. The idea is feasible but parklets may need to be installed for a minimum 6 months.

TP highlighted that COVID represents the opportunity for Council to achieve permanent rather than just temporary measures. He suggested closing streets and redirecting traffic in Abbotsford at Nicholson/Langridge/Mollison, as well as Lennox Street around Richmond Primary School.

AM suggested removal of parking in areas of Swan Street and Bridge Road. SE explained these roads being under State Government jurisdiction, make it difficult to remove clearways despite promising conversations with DoT.

AM also suggested pop-up pedestrian crossings outside schools and lowering speed limits to 30 km/h. As did MC. SE said the State Government is not supportive of 30 km/h but may be more likely to reduce speed on some arterials. JF suggested prioritising 40 km/h on St Georges Road.

MC identified possible pop-ups for outdoor trading and dining on Rathdowne Street, Carlton North that came out of the LAPM. He highlighted that the City of Melbourne is leading the way with emergency bike routes to which Yarra needs good connectivity.

JF suggested pop-up bike lanes along Heidelberg Road (referred by Darebin and Banyule). This was supported by BAC members and is investigated by council officers.

CS proposed more priority crossings on the Linear Park Trail/CCT eg at Bennet Street such as at Rae Street and also larger school drop-off zones like on Wellington Street.

BE recommended removing parking on the northern side of Park Street for a pop-up footpath to alleviate congestion on the CCT.

EC suggested having a bi-directional bike lane on Park Street from McIlwraith to Nicholson Streets as well as an intervention to assist school children riding on Richardson/Reid to Alfred Crescent to access schools in Princes Hill and North Fitzroy. He suggested utilising the rail reserve near Heidelberg Road to create an active transport link. He also proposed a review of current tree planting on footpaths.

PE updated Yarra’s current work with the City of Melbourne and City of Port Phillip to use DoT funding on a behaviour change program in the next 12 months.

1. **Updates**

Cr Fristacky identified items for noting re:

* Yarra’s draft Budget 2020/21 inviting BAC examination and submissions;
* JUMP e-bike share scheme being taken over by new operator (Lime).

1. **Summary of workshop recommendations and next steps**

Cr Fristacky summarised key recommendations and thanked everyone for their participation.

RT advised there was no set date for the next BAC meeting.

1. **Meeting close**

Mayor Coleman reiterated that the current situation is a great opportunity for Council to implement low-cost pop-up solutions to support return to work and school.

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