

## 4.2 **CYCLING CONNECTION – SCOTCHMANS CREEK TRAIL TO DJERRING TRAIL, OAKLEIGH**

(SJW:F18-34454)

Responsible Director: Deb Cailes

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### ***PURPOSE***

This report seeks Council endorsement of the concept proposal for a cycling connection between Scotchmans Creek Trail and Djerring Trail. Council endorsement is also sought to undertake consultation, as appropriate, to progress the proposal.

#### ***KEY CONSIDERATIONS/ISSUES***

The proposal comprises five separate components. Each has different characteristics and most importantly all must be workable in their own right for the full connection to be established.

The intent is to seek feedback on the overall general concept of the proposal and more specifically obtain comment on the particulars of the Atkinson Street Trial Demonstration Cycleway and the Hanover Street Dedicated Cycleway.

The Atkinson Street element requires a reduction in the number of existing parking spaces from 46 spaces to approximately 22 spaces on the east side of Atkinson Street. This loss will need to be understood in relation to the impact on nearby residents and the Activity Centre.

The purpose of a trial demonstration cycleway is to test this type of cycling infrastructure which is new to Monash. A trial allows for adjustments to resolve any issues that arise both before and during the trial, with the aim to progress to a permanent cycleway.

Consultation with residents, traders and the wider community is proposed via letter drop, Shape Monash webpage and online meetings as required.

#### ***FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

Costs and resourcing associated with updates to the concept documentation and the consultation can be found within existing budget.

The construction of any or all of the cycleway will require funding to be sought through Council's annual budget process or through external sources.

***CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION***

That Council support the recommendation to undertake community consultation on the attached concept proposal for a cycling connection between Scotchmans Creek Trail and Djerring Trail.

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council:*

- 1. Agrees to the concept proposal for the 1.4km cycling connection between Scotchmans Creek Trail and the Djerring Trail in Oakleigh*
- 2. Directs officers to consult with the community on the concept proposal and more specifically seek comment on the particulars of the trial demonstration cycleway in Atkinson Street between Dandenong Road and Atherton Road, and the Hanover Street dedicated cycleway components with a report back to Council in June 2022*
- 3. Directs officers to commence consultation with Department of Transport on plans for a dedicated cycleway along Hanover Street between Atherton Road and Burlington Street*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The provision of a cycling connection between two of Council's major trails, Scotchmans Creek Trail and Djerring Trail would provide a key north-south cycling link within the City of Monash and facilitate safer active transport access to the Oakleigh ActivityCentre.

This cycling link comprises a number components. They are:

- A trial demonstration cycleway in Atkinson Street between Dandenong Road and Atherton Road (initial phase).
- A dedicated cycleway along the east side of Hanover Street between Atherton Road and Burlington Street extending around the north-east corner into Burlington Street.
- A provisional link along Burlington Street and Oxford Street to the Djerring Trail.
- A shared pathway connection from Hanover Street across Burlington Street through Council and VicTrack land alongside the toe of the eastern embankment of the Hanover Street bridge connecting to the Djerring Trail
- Inclusion of a cycleway across the eastern side of the Atkinson Street / Dandenong Road signalised intersection.
- Upgrading the shared use path along the east side of Atkinson Street between Scotchmans Creek Trail and Dandenong Road.

All of these components are required for this cycling connection to serve its purpose. This report in seeking Council's agreement with the concept proposal also seeks support to consult on:

- The full cycleway concept proposal, and
- More specifically seek comment on the initial phase trial demonstration cycleway plan prepared for Atkinson Street between Dandenong Road and Atherton Road as well as the Hanover Street dedicated cycleway components.

### **BACKGROUND**

The provision of a protected cycling connection between Scotchmans Creek Trail and Djerring Trail will encourage cycling for people of all ages and abilities, improving cyclist safety around the Oakleigh Activity Centre and enable a north-south cycling link between two major trails in Monash.

In 2021, the City of Monash received a grant from Sustainability Victoria to incorporate recycled material into Council infrastructure. One option initially considered for this grant was the construction of a temporary demonstration cycleway on the east side of Atkinson Street between Dandenong Road and Atherton Road, Oakleigh. Timeframes required for appropriate community consultation meant the project could not meet the grant delivery requirements. The project was not progressed further at this time.

At its meeting of 25 January 2022, Council agreed to continue to progress work on the cycling connection between Scotchmans Creek Trail and Djerring Trail in Oakleigh. Officers were directed to finalise the concept proposal and seek endorsement from Council to proceed to consultation. Officers were also directed to include consideration in the concept proposal for a dedicated cycleway along Hanover Street between Atherton Road and Burlington Street, instead of diverting via Oxford Street.

### **DISCUSSION**

This is a project that combines five separate components to complete the connection between Scotchmans Creek Trail and the Djerring Trail

Each has different characteristics and most importantly all must be workable in their own right for the full connection to be established.

The project evolved with the concept prepared for a demonstration cycleway along Atkinson Street between Dandenong Road and Atherton road. This style of cycleway is a first of its kind for Monash. The trade-off of some on-street parking to accommodate the cycleway within the roadway is necessary. Without acceptance of this component, the concepts for the remaining elements become incompatible.

### 1. Atkinson Street - Trial Demonstration Cycleway

As part of the Sustainability Victoria grant, concept plans for the temporary demonstration cycleway in Atkinson Street between Dandenong Road and Atherton Road were developed to a level suitable for community consultation, shown in Attachment 1. These plans include the use of recycled “quick-build” materials, as required by the Sustainability Victoria grant, and allow a comprehensive trial to be conducted, with adjustments able to be made as required, at relatively low inconvenience and cost.

This type of cycleway is a new innovation for Council and may require a number of iterations in order to gain community acceptance for a more permanent solution. This is the case with trial cycleways in other municipalities and with the pop-up cycleways being delivered by Department of Transport.

### 2. Hanover Street – Dedicated Cycleway

A possible layout for this section is shown in Attachment 2. This is expected to involve the following changes along Hanover Street:

- Reallocation of the existing southbound lane in Hanover Street as a cycleway
- Reconfiguration of the existing signals at Atherton Road/Hanover Street.
- Removal of a number of central median islands and reconstruction to form the southbound traffic lane.
- Removal of the pedestrian refuge south of Portman Street.
- Reduction in the central turn lane (which services both directions) between Portman Street and Burlington Street.
- Reconstruction of two raised crossings in Hanover Street.
- Possible reconfiguration/relocation of signal lanterns for the flashing pedestrian crossings north of Portman Street and north of Burlington Street.
- Reconstruction of the Hanover Street/Burlington Street roundabout to enable extension around the north-east corner into Burlington Street

A number of these changes will require the approval of the Department of Transport. Given the physical constraints in this particular area the intention is to engage external expertise advice on the options.

### 3. Burlington Street to Djerring Trail

- Provisional Link

Attachment 2 shows a dedicated cycleway along the north side of Burlington Street to Oxford Street then the use of directional markings (sharrows) and traffic calming as necessary to direct cyclists along Oxford Street to the existing Djerring Trail. connection at the south end of Oxford Street. This will be required until an off-road link can be established.

- Off-road Link

This is a shared pathway connection from the north-east corner of Hanover Street and Burlington Street across Burlington Street via a priority road crossing then through Council and VicTrack land alongside the toe of the eastern embankment of the Hanover Street bridge connecting to the Djerring Trail. Currently there is a 2m wide walkway access between the retaining wall and the eastern end of the old VicTrack owned building which then leads into private property. There is sufficient VicTrack land available to establish a shared pathway once the overgrowth is cleared. Ideally the old VicTrack building could be modified/removed to allow for a 3m wide pathway.

#### 4. Atkinson Street/Dandenong Road - Intersection

A cycleway crossing facility would need to be incorporated across the eastern side of the signalised intersection to ensure safety. A concept is shown in Attachment 3. The Department of Transport will be a key stakeholder in this feature.

#### 5. Scotchmans Creek Trail to Dandenong Road

With the naturestrip along the eastern side of Atkinson Street being almost 6.5m wide it is envisaged that 3m wide shared use path would provide the best outcome. The existing on-road bike lanes could be removed.

### **CONSULTATION**

#### Department of Transport

Detailed discussions were held over a number of months with the Department of Transport in relation to the Atkinson Street trial cycleway standards and requirements of the bus route. The Department of Transport has indicated its support for the proposal to proceed to detailed design and procurement, subject to a final review and issuing of their consent.

A number of bus routes use Hanover Street and there are a number of signal changes required. As such, it is expected that consultation with the Department of Transport will take 4-6 months in relation to a dedicated cycleway on Hanover Street between Atherton Road and Burlington Street. Concept plans suitable for community consultation would be developed out of this process.

#### Community

Consultation with the community on providing a cycling connection between the Scotchmans Creek Trail and the Djerring Trail is the next step in progressing this project.

The intent is to seek feedback on the overall general concept of the proposal and more specifically obtain comment on the particulars of the Atkinson

Street Trial Demonstration Cycleway and the Hanover Street Dedicated Cycleway.

The Atkinson Street element will be focus area as it requires a reduction in the number of existing parking spaces from 46 spaces to approximately 22 spaces on the east side of Atkinson Street. This loss will need to be understood in relation to the impact on nearby residents and the Activity Centre.

Being a new type of cycle infrastructure in Monash the purpose of a trial demonstration cycleway is to facilitate adjustments to resolve any issues that arise both before and during the trial, with the aim to progress to a permanent cycleway.

Consultation with residents, traders and the wider community is proposed via letter drop, Shape Monash webpage and online meetings as required.

### ***SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

The provision of additional active transport facilities provides improved access for people cycling, with positive health and recreational benefits.

### ***HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS***

The provision of additional active transport options seeks to represent the needs and aspirations of the broader Monash community.

### ***GENDER EQUITY ASSESSMENT***

A gender impact assessment has not been undertaken on this concept project at this time. When this project is up for review, Council will reconsider whether or not a gender impact assessment is required.

### ***FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

Costs and resourcing associated with updates to the concept documentation and the consultation can be found within existing budget.

The construction of any or all of the cycleway will require funding to be sought through Council's annual budget process or through external sources.

### ***CONCLUSION***

That Council support the concept proposal and agree with officers recommendation to undertake community consultation