Budget Ideas 2019-2020

Prepared by: Streets Alive Yarra

www.streets-alive-yarra.org

facebook.com/streetsaliveyarra/

Foreward

Streets Alive Yarra is a non-profit, volunteer, community group who advocate for:

- shopping streets that build wealth for traders by attracting regular business from local residents;

- a network of safe streets that enable those who wish to use active transport to do so, thus freeing up space on the streets for those who prefer to drive;

- economically rational and evidence-based re-allocation of street space toward transport modes that can carry more people per unit area of street space; and

- evidence-based re-allocation of street space toward safe travel infrastructure that provides equity of access for people who are young, old or with disabilities.

Our vision is for vibrant and profitable local businesses, owing to increased patronage, and traffic that still flows freely. Residents and shoppers are able to move safely, comfortably, and conveniently around Yarra. We see our streets being used by people from 8 to 80 years old, irrespective if they choose to walk, cycle, use public transport or drive.

Image credit: OCULUS Landscape Architecture and Urban Design

Streets Alive Yarra was founded in 2017 and now has over 1,400 likes on Facebook, increasing by ~ 10 per week. A network of local champions develop concepts and proposals for how to improve their local street or precinct. Streets Alive Yarra is also Yarra's Walkability Action Group (WAG) representative for Victoria Walks.

Streets Alive Yarra has made multiple submissions to the City of Yarra:

- www.streets-alive-yarra.org/submissions

Further information is available at:

- www.streets-alive-yarra.org

- facebook.com/streetsaliveyarra/

Summary

Streets Alive Yarra proposes multiple ideas and actions which can be included in the budget, viewable at:

- https://www.streets-alive-yarra.org/actions/

All of the proposals (linked above and described below) support all Council goals, including:

- A healthy Yarra

- An inclusive Yarra

- A sustainable Yarra

- A liveable Yarra

- A prosperous Yarra

- A connected Yarra

- A leading Yarra

Respond to Climate Emergency

Yarra Mayor, Cr Danae Bosler said "*Yarra recognises that climate change is an extraordinary crisis, and a meaningful and effective response will require action by all levels of government, including local councils.*"

The City of Yarra has two main ways to influence CO_2 emissions - buildings and transport.

For buildings, Council can alter the Yarra Planning Scheme to require a higher minimum level of energy efficiency, for both residential and commercial construction. For example, require 8-star instead of 6-star:

- http://www.vba.vic.gov.au/consumers/six-star-standard

Budget requirement - medium (develop & adopt policy)

For transport, Council can invest in infrastructure that supports CO_2 free active transport, and dissuades CO_2 intensive motor vehicles. Further ideas and details are provided in this submission.

Budget requirement - neutral (increase revenue from parking and allocate it to safe & active transport)

Commit to 30 km/h superblocks across Yarra

Publish a map showing 30 km/h superblocks across Yarra, interspersed with a grid of 40 km/h main streets. This can be part of an Integrated Transport strategy.
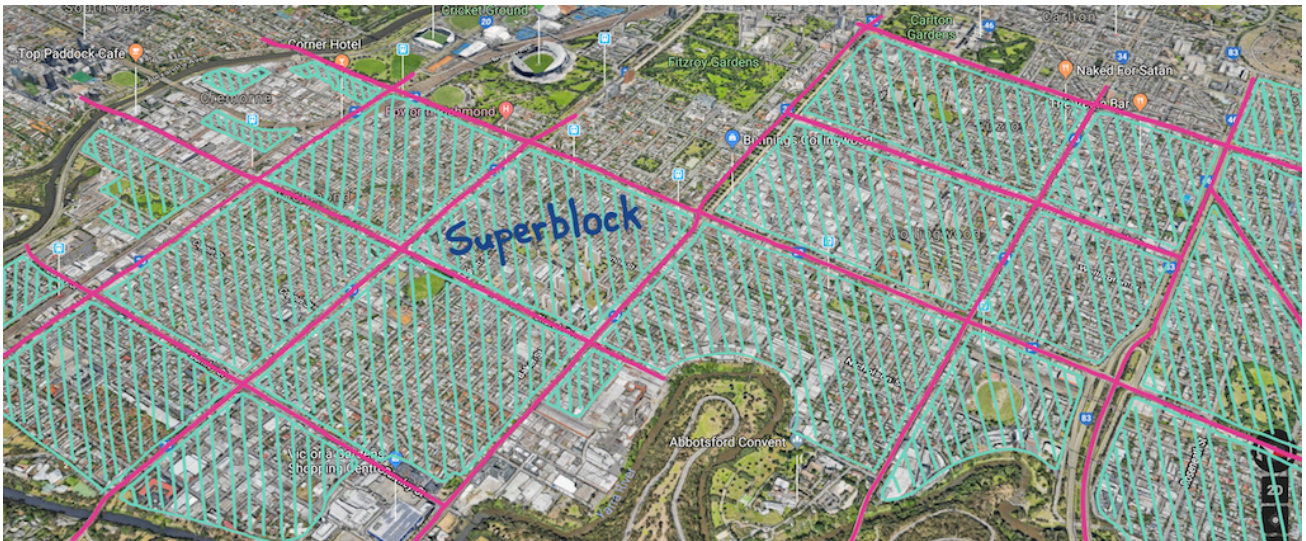

Image credit: Streets Alive Yarra, background from Google Maps

Budget requirement - medium (develop & adopt policy)

Publish the business case for active transport

Council has a role to promote economic development and support local traders. Experience from around the world shows that traders benefit when their main street is re-developed to support active transport, including wider footpaths, protected bicycle lanes and safer public transport stops. Council should collate and publish the evidence to demonstrate how Yarra businesses can benefit.

• https://www.streets-alive-yarra.org/better-for-business/

Budget requirement - small (collate & publish the evidence)

Trial parklets on a shopping street

Some traders may not initially accept the global evidence that re-developing the street to support active transport will be better for their business. To overcome this, Council should allow traders to test the new street design by investing in a fleet of parklets, that can be relocated from street to street. Parklets would be narrower than a parked car, effectively creating a wide bicycle lane that is not in a dooring zone.

- https://www.streets-alive-yarra.org/swan-street/

Budget requirement - medium (obtain funding from State Government)

Commit to protected bicycle lanes on main streets

Publish a map showing a grid of 40 km/h main streets with protected bicycle lanes. This grid can be part of an Integrated Transport strategy, and will have significant overlap with the VicRoads Principal Bicycle Network.

- https://www.streets-alive-yarra.org/bicycle-network

Image credit: OCULUS Landscape Architecture and Urban Design

Budget requirement - medium (develop & adopt policy)

Reform the pricing of parking

Yarra is facing a parking crunch:

- https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/yarras-parking-crunch-jeremy-lawrence/

Yarra is also subsiding on-street parking by ~ $80 million per year:

- https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/yarras-parking-subsidy-jeremy-lawrence/

Council can solve Yarra's parking crunch by reforming how parking is priced:

- https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/how-solve-yarras-parking-crunch-jeremy-lawrence/

If holders of on-street parking permits are asked to pay just $1 per day (or $365 per year) then this reform can also increase revenue by at least $10 million per year.

- https://www.streets-alive-yarra.org/better-for-parking/

One way of introducing the topic to ratepayers is to host a public debate inviting members of the public to speak for or against, with supporting speakers from academia and industry, perhaps even from institutions such Infrastructure Victoria, the Grattan Institute and the RACV.

Budget requirement - negative (generates additional revenue of $10m per year)

Allocate $10m per year for safe travel infrastructure

Owing to the positive business case, Council should invest $10 million per year to deliver safe travel infrastructure:

- https://www.streets-alive-yarra.org/business-case/

Infrastructure consists of integrated, cohesive networks of protected footpaths and protected bicycle paths:

- https://www.streets-alive-yarra.org/footpath-network
- https://www.streets-alive-yarra.org/bicycle-network

Budget requirement - large ($10m per year)

Create Transport for Yarra

Create Transport for Yarra to unify all activities relating to transport, mobility & parking, then formalise an Integrated Transport Strategy.

- https://www.streets-alive-yarra.org/transport-for-yarra/

Budget requirement - negative (productivity gain)

Conduct Safe System assessments

A key task of Council is to provide actionable intelligence to Councillors, including quantified data on how safe (or unsafe) our streets are, or how well our streets align with Safe System principles:

- https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/technical-publications/safe-system-engineering
- https://www.streets-alive-yarra.org/safety/

Council should conduct a Safe System assessment review of three representative streets, such as Swan Street (a shopping street), Cremorne Street (an access street) and Wellington Street, Cremorne (a residential street), to build the evidence base for safer streets.

Budget requirement - small (attend training course then conduct assessments)

Install mobility counters

A key task of Council is to provide actionable intelligence to Councillors, including quantified data on how are streets are used. Council should invest in mobility counters that can measure all modes, including people walking, cycling, using public transport or driving. This will build the evidence base to justify re-allocation of street space.

Budget requirement - medium (obtain funding from State Government)

Restrict parking around schools

Council can improve safety and health of children by restricting parking around schools:

• https://www.streets-alive-yarra.org/schools/

Council can replicate the work of the City of Moonee Valley, publishing maps for each school, showing how parents can park a short distance away and then walk with their children to school. Here is an example:
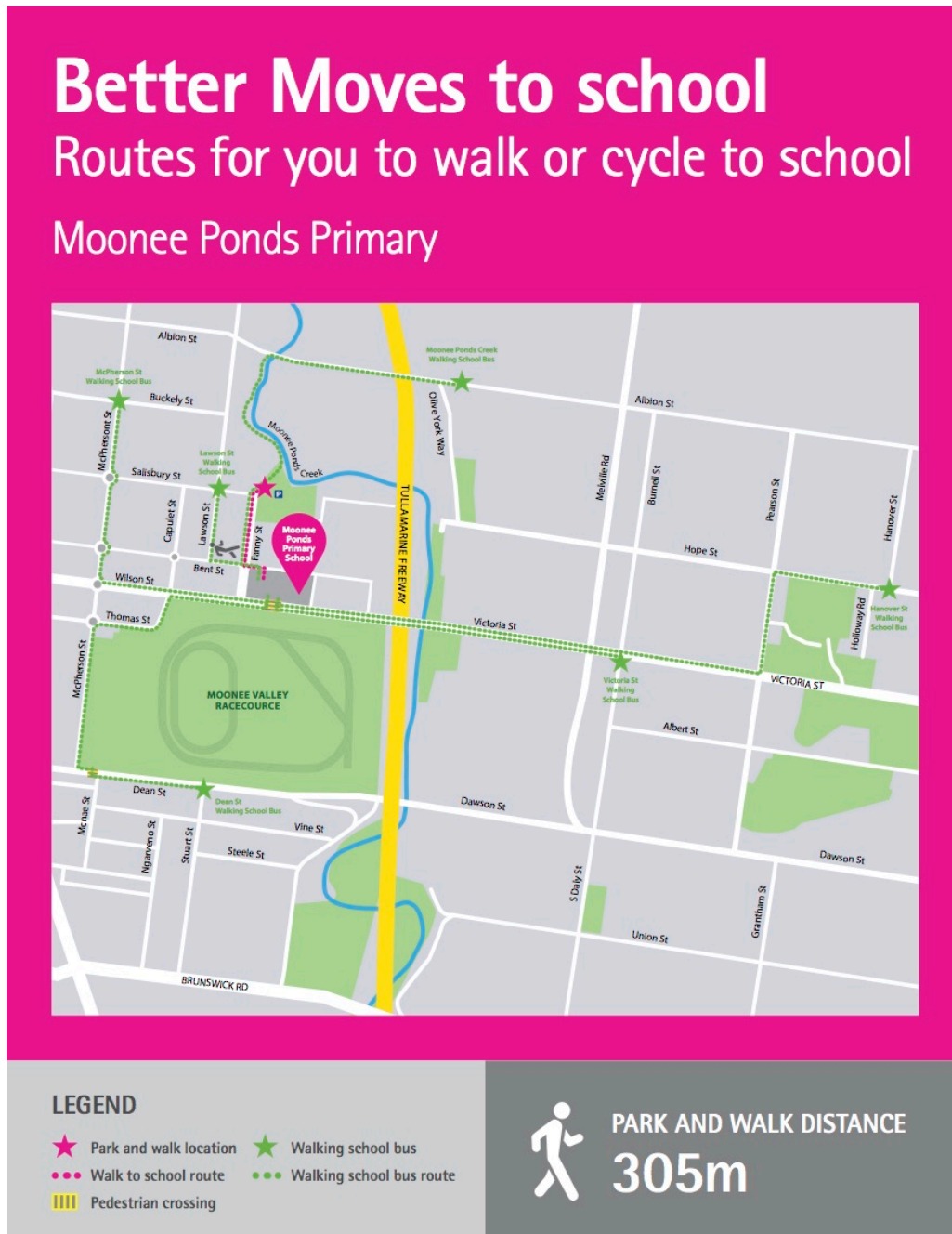
Budget requirement - medium (consultation & publication)