

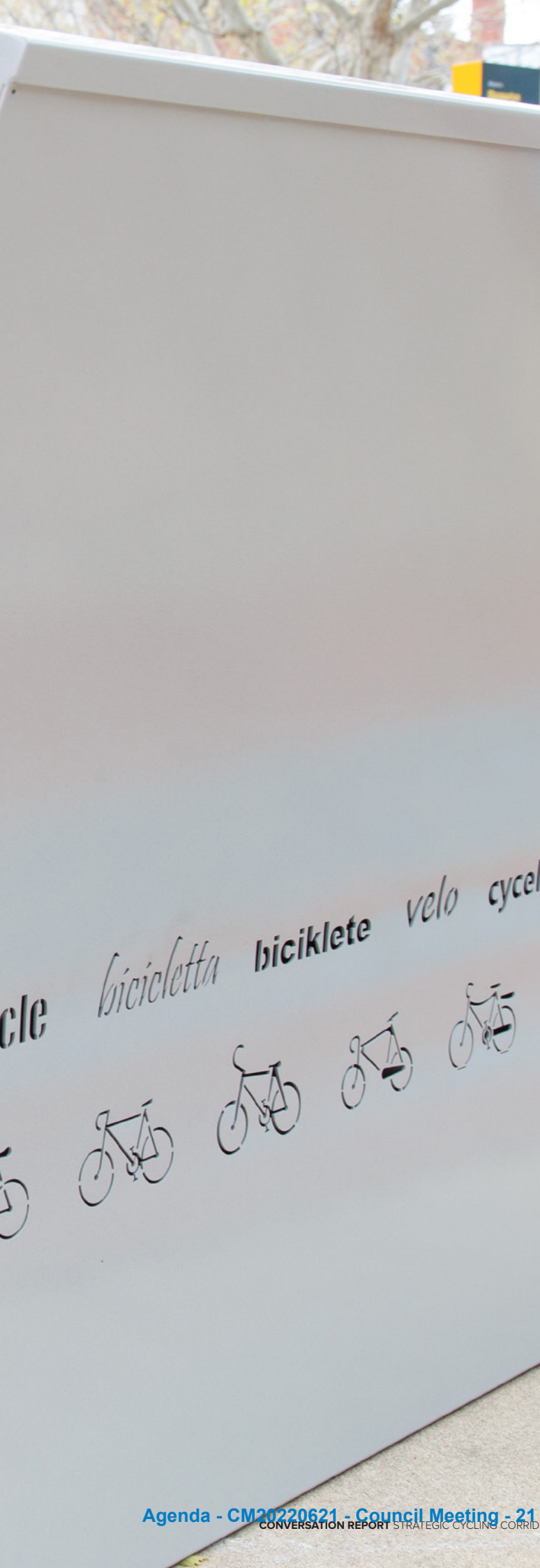


GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL CONVERSATION REPORT

Strategic Cycling Corridors: Victoria Park Lake
- Greater Shepparton Secondary College

JUNE 2022





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About the Strategic Cycling Corridors

In 2020, the Victorian Government released updated guidelines for priority pedestrian and cycling routes within the Victoria Cycling Strategy 2018-2028, which envisions an increase in the number, frequency and diversity of Victorians cycling for transport by investing in a safer, lower-stress, better-connected network and making cycling a more inclusive experience.

The Victorian Government seeks to achieve these goals by prioritising the Strategic Cycling Corridors (SCC), which identify key cycling routes to and near essential services, such as work and education, as well as local trips such as public transport stations, shops and schools. This strategy also sets out the strategic basis for Victorian Government funding commitments to develop the SCCs, to provide safer and lower-stress routes by including off-road shared pathways to reduce the risk of motor vehicle accidents with cyclists.

One identified SCC route in Shepparton will provide safe and well connected shared pathway routes from the Shepparton Railway Station to Victoria Park Lake and the new Greater Shepparton Secondary College (GSSC). The SCC can be on and off-road, on municipal and state roads, and are designed to provide safe, lower-stress cycling for transport experience. Council has prepared concept plans for the proposed SCC route.



Consultation

In order to encourage input and refine the concept designs, Council undertook community consultation with residents and businesses along the SCC route. Consultation occurred between 1 April and 2 May 2022. The methods of engagement included:

- a letter to all landowners and occupiers of land along the SCC route;
- a media release, which attracted media attention from the Shepparton News;
- a consultation webpage on Council's Shaping Greater Shepparton website with an online submission form; and
- promotions on social media.

Submissions were invited via an online submission form, by email and by post. Residents were also invited to attend one-on-one sessions with a Council staff member to discuss the concept designs and leave their feedback.

Who did we hear from?

A total of 12 written submissions were received by Council during the public consultation process; all received from the Shaping Greater Shepparton online submission form. Of the submissions received, 58.3% were cyclists who regularly use or will use this route, 25% were either users of Victoria Park Lake, the Shepparton Railway Station or the GSSC. 16.6% of submitters were residents or landowners along the route.

What we heard

Below is a list of the main themes that emerged from submissions:

- support for the Strategic Cycling Corridors;
- Wyndham Street/Hayes Street Intersection;
- Fryers Street/Railway Parade Intersection;
- Knight Street/Hawdon Street Intersection;
- landscaping;
- alternative alignments;
- other cycling links; and
- other matters.

Support for the Strategic Cycling Corridors

The majority of the submissions received indicated support for the Strategic Cycling Corridors; noting that the identified paths will make bicycle travel safer for people of all ages and promote cycling as a viable means of transport that can be used for both recreational and commuter trips. Council acknowledges this support and thanks submitters for their positive feedback.

Wyndham Street/Hayes Street Intersection

A number of submissions queried how the SCC would interact with the intersection of Wyndham and Hayes Streets to access Victoria Park Lake.

Council is currently undertaking investigative works to upgrade the intersection, which will allow the SCC route to safely cross Wyndham Street and access Victoria Park Lake. This investigation is being conducted separately to the SCC project and requires input from Regional Roads Victoria. As a result, any potential concept for the intersection upgrade was not included in the SCC concept designs.

Knight Street/Hawdon Street Intersection

One submission queried how the SCC will interact with the Knight Street/Hawdon Street intersection. This intersection is not included in the scope of the SCC; however, Council has allocated \$6.15 million in the draft 2022/23 Council Budget to further investigate and construct an upgrade for this roundabout. The designs for this upgrade will provide provision for pedestrian and cyclist movements along Andrew Fairley Avenue.

Fryers Street/Railway Parade Intersection

One submission queried how the SCC will interact with the Fryers Street/Railway Parade intersection. Council has allocated \$5.31 million in the draft 2022/23 Council budget to further investigate and construct an upgrade for this intersection. The designs for this upgrade will provide provision for pedestrian and cyclist movements over Fryers Street.

Landscaping

Some submissions queried whether the SCC corridor will be landscaped and have provision for lighting to create an attractive and safe gateway towards Victoria Park Lake. Landscaping and lighting will be included in the final SCC designs.

Alternative Alignments

One submission queried whether Council could consider an alternative alignment for the route between Hayes Street and the Shepparton Art Museum utilising railway land. The SCC route has been designed to avoid any works on VicTrack-owned land to reduce the need for third-party approvals and overall costs associated with the project. VicTrack has indicated that it does not support any route alignment that may compromise the future role and function of the rail corridor. As a result, detailed investigations for alternative alignments have not been carried-out.

Other Cycling Links

Several submissions queried whether Council would consider constructing additional cycling links within the Shepparton/Mooroopna area. The provision of additional cycling links are identified in the Greater Shepparton Cycling Strategy and Council's Ten Year Capital Works Program. Funding has been provided in the draft 2022/23 Council budget to update the Cycling Strategy, which would be subject to additional community consultation.

Other matters

Council received submissions on other matters that did not directly relate to the SCC. This included a request for additional public transport services and a new train station at the GSSC. The provision of public transport services and decisions on any new train stations is the responsibility of the Victorian Government through the Department of Transport.

Council also received a submission relating to the maintenance of roads and cycling paths, and the enforcement of distancing rules when passing cyclists. Council undertakes the maintenance and renewal of roads and cycling paths through the Ten Year Capital Works Program. Council encourages members of the public to report any roads or cycling paths that require attention. The enforcement of distancing rules is not a Council responsibility and submitters are encouraged to contact the Department of Transport.

What's next?

Council will use feedback from submissions to further refine the concept designs for the SCCs. Final designs will be prepared in mid-2022 and will inform Council's advocacy for construction funding to the Victorian Government.



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