

Consultation Analysis

Bay Trail Shared Path: Sandown Street to Bay Street Section

1.0 Introduction

Duplication of the Bay Trail at Sandown Street is not considered to be complex as it involves providing an additional path for cyclists adjacent to the existing shared path, along a straight corridor with sufficient space available to accommodate a new path (study area right).

Given the limited level of influence that the community has on the project proposal (see Table 1), the purpose of the communication and engagement was to inform the community:

- Of the public safety risk associated with this high risk site;
- That Council cannot ignore this risk;
- About the proposal to duplicate this section of the Bay Trail shared path;
- Of the potential implications of the proposal, i.e. the removal of a grassed area to accommodate a separated path.

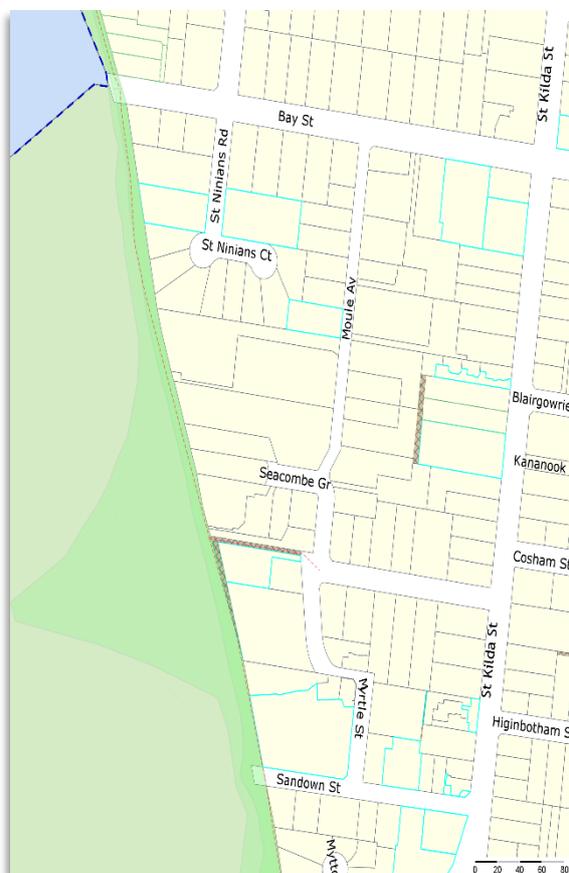


Table 1 Negotiables and Non Negotiables

Non-negotiables	Negotiables
Proposed width of the path (2.5m – 3m) set as per best practice	Distance of duplicated path from adjacent properties (limited)
Material of path – concrete (hard wearing, non-slip and smooth)	Colour of the concrete
The need to deliver the project (project identified in Council risk register)	Timeframe for delivering the works (Autumn/Winter)

Communication Approach

The communication approach taken to inform the community of this project and collect feedback on the proposal consisted of:

- A Letter and project information flyer sent to adjacent property owners and residents to inform them about the project and to provide information on the available opportunities to speak to the project team; and
- Signage installed onsite to inform shared path users of the project and the on-site listening post.

Engagement Approach

Three engagement methods were offered to residents and affected stakeholders interested in finding out more or providing feedback about the project.

Method	Rationale	Timing	Participation #
Listening Post On-site	Speak with users of the site, at a place and time convenient to this group.	Wednesday 1st March 2016 5.30pm – 7.30pm	66 people
On-site Meetings	Provide interested stakeholders with specific information or those unable to make the listening post with the opportunity to discuss the project	Available upon request between 10 th Feb – 10 th March, 2017 10 th Feb – 10 th March	2 adjacent residents (did not attend the listening post)
Phone Conversation			2 adjacent residents (also attended the listening post)

2.0 Participants

Participation Rates

70 participants provided feedback or met with the project team to discuss the project. Five people met individually, either in person or over the phone; 66 people attended the listening post onsite.

A total of 74 adjacent property owners and residents were notified of the project directly through a mail out.

Location of Respondents

Participants that attended the drop in session came from the following areas:

- Brighton: 44% (includes adjacent residents)
- Bentleigh: 16%
- Elsternwick: 9%
- Melbourne CBD: 7%
- Other 24%

3.0 Insights from consultation

Providing an additional new path along this section of the Bay Trail to improve safety was strongly supported by participants with:

- 94% of respondents **supporting** the project (64 people)
- 6% of respondents **not supporting** the project (4 people)

Insights related to project

Summarised below are the insights from participants that will be used by the project team:

- An adjacent resident and user of the existing grassed area suggested reducing the width of the separation between the two paths in order to increase the of the passive recreation space provided by the grass. This can be easily incorporated into the project design and will help to improve the look and function of the area;

- A small number of participants noted that it may be difficult for some pedestrians to understand which path to use and how to access the path. In consideration of this information the project team are investigating visual aids at key intersection points to clarify entry and use; and
- A number of participants asked why Council was not looking at increasing the width or duplicating the shared path in the area immediately behind the Royal Brighton Yacht Club. It is proposed to investigate measures to improve this section of the Bay Trail as part of the Middle Brighton Baths Precinct project.

Insights about Council

Summarised below are the insights collected from participants that do not directly relate to the project, however will be passed on to the area responsible:

- The following complaints were received about the dog friendly beach adjacent to this section of the Bay Trail:
 - Dog owners not picking up after their dogs; and
 - Dogs not on leash when arriving or leaving the beach, causing a safety risk to shared path users.