



Rushall Reserve 'Shared Path' Workshop (Evening 2)

Tuesday 28 April 2015, 6.30pm to 9.00pm

Quick reference **technical** fact sheet

Overview

Shared paths in Yarra consist of a mixture of asphalt and concrete paths, ranging from 2.5 to 3 metres wide. Generally new paths are installed at 3 metres width. The main shared path routes, which have some overlap, within Yarra are:

The Capital City Trail – a 29km trail loop from Southbank along the Yarra river and Merri creek, through Linear and Royal Parks, down the Moonee Ponds Creek and back through Docklands to the city.

The Main Yarra Trail – a 38km shared trail from Princes bridge in the city to Templestowe at the confluence of the Mullum Creek and Yarra River.

The Merri Creek Trail – a 21km shared path from Dights Falls in Abbotsford to the ringroad in Fawkner following the Merri creek.

Signage on the paths reminds users that cyclists are required to give way to pedestrians on shared paths, dogs are required to be on lead, all users are required to keep left, and cyclists are advised to warn pedestrians of their presence by ringing their bells.

Data Collected

In October 2014 council engaged a traffic engineer to collect data at a variety of locations around the proposed path network. The data doesn't give definitive information on volume or speeds to expect at a path through Rushall Reserve. It does provide indicative information such as:

Weekend users (typically recreational riders)

- Use the path over the whole day (7am- 6pm), peaking around midday (11am- 3:30pm).
- Travel more slowly than commuters (roughly 1-2 km/ hr or around 9% slower).

Weekday users (typically commuter cyclists)

- Peak periods are early morning and afternoon, similar to on road peak periods (6:30 – 9:30am and 4:30 – 7:30pm).
- Average speeds are higher than weekend speeds.

For both groups, the grade of the track has an impact on speed – with higher speeds where the path travels downhill, and slower on the uphill.

In general terms, the volume of cyclists who may use a path through Rushall Reserve could be expected to be similar or less than those at location **no. 6 Merri Creek South** as they are riding along the Merri Creek Trail, or the Capital City Trail. Koonda Lat is likely to be the main route taken by commuters to and from further north.

Numbers at location no. 6 Merri Creek South are:

Weekday:

- Eastbound average 167 cyclists per day
- Westbound average 165 cyclists per day

Weekend:

- Eastbound average 288 per day
- Westbound average 275 per day

In general, the number of people cycling in Yarra is increasing at a rate of 12% per year.

Design Guidelines for a new shared path

- For consistency and future usage the path would preferably be 3 metres wide.
- The path could be asphalt or tinted concrete.
- Significant trees need to be protected from damage to their roots. This may occur by path design or alignment.
- A desired 1 metre clearance, and minimum of ½ metre clearance, between the path edge and an obstacle each side of the path is required for safety.
- Include a fence where there is a steep vertical drop to the edge of the path.
- The design guidelines for the path radius if flat is - 'design speed' 20km/ hr – 10m radius, 'design speed' 30km/hr – 25m radius.

Dogs and Shared Paths

- Dogs must be kept on-leash on designated shared pathways and 5 metres either side, even when paths run through a dog off lead area.
- If there is a fence separating the shared path and a dog off lead area, council enforcement officers can use their discretion on the above local law. This is currently the case with fenced playgrounds and dogs off lead.
- It is 'owner onus' in terms of responsibility for the behavior of the dog, and relation to dogs wandering onto a shared path.