

**OFFICERS REPORT****6.2 Updating Council's Walking & Cycling Strategy**

Submitting Councillor: Dr Anjalee de Silva

**MOTION**

*That Council:*

1. *Directs officers to update the Monash Walking and Cycling Strategy, with consideration given to matters including but not limited to:*
  - *the prioritisation of walking and cycling identified in the Council Plan;*
  - *improvements to safety and perceived safety in public spaces for women, girls, and gender diverse people, reflecting responses received from women and gender diverse people through the recent YourGround consultation;*
  - *closing key gaps in the cycling network; and*
  - *identifying and signposting primary and secondary pedestrian routes.*

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

An update of the Monash Walking and Cycling Strategy would require a research component to refresh the relevant data and review best practice. Extensive community and stakeholder engagement for the Strategy will be required.

While the identification of primary and secondary pedestrian routes was not covered in the original Strategy, this additional scope would complement and help strengthen the pedestrian component of the Strategy. This work will require formal definition of the pedestrian network, collection and collation of pedestrian data across the municipality, determination of key destinations, route and mapping analysis and development of an action plan to identify routes and hence the use of external expertise. This will be funded within budget.

**IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES**

The Engineering team is able to draw from existing resources to lead and project manage the delivery of the Strategy, supported by consultants. Council officers from other departments will be engaged through the Strategy's development.

**COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES**

An update of the Monash Walking and Cycling Strategy would contribute to the realisation of strategic objectives within the Council Plan. Relevant strategies include to: *"prioritise sustainable transport options, including walking/cycling paths and public transport"* within the Sustainable City objective, and the *"prioritisation of pedestrians and active transport*

*over vehicles*” within the Enhanced Places objective. Forward planning is required to identify future walking and cycling infrastructure changes, areas for advocacy and community education programs to enable these strategies to be achieved.

The YourGround Victoria project led by Monash University mapped ‘hotspots’ or spaces and places where respondents felt vulnerable and/or unsafe. A survey was undertaken over a thirteen-week period from April to July 2021 which specifically investigated safety perceptions of women, girls, and gender diverse community members. It identified specific aspects that could be improved to address safety concerns. In reviewing the policy these findings and recommendations should be considered

It is a specific action in the Monash Integrated Transport Strategy 2017: Action C19 to “Update Walking and Cycling Strategy to specifically encourage and promote walking and cycling modeshare”.

The update feeds into the Active Living priority of Pillar One - Active and Healthy - Healthy Lifestyles four-year strategic plan within the Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025.

The Gender Equity Framework 2021-2025 - Recommendation 3 is relevant in relation to the “YourGround” report. Specifically, the updated Monash Walking and Cycling Strategy would look to outline ways to *improve safety and perceived safety in public spaces for women, girls, and gender diverse people*.

The Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy November 2021, Strategic Priority 4 supports delivery and connection of the recreational trail network and active transport priorities. It also calls out the Walking and Cycling Strategy as one of the key drivers of the development of the active transport network in future planning.

#### **RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES**

The Monash Walking and Cycling Strategy was endorsed in the 2012/13 financial year. It is timely to consider an update to ensure it remains consistent with community and Council priorities and aspirations.

#### **CONCLUSION**

An update of the Monash Walking and Cycling Strategy aligns with priorities of the organisation