



CITY OF MELBOURNE

20 May 2021

Sporting Club
Relevant to parking changes near Princes Park

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Dear Stakeholder

ABN 55 370 219 287

**Royal Parade – east side – adjacent to Princes Park
Proposed removal of car parking during AM Peak to improve bike safety**

Thank you for recently discussing with our staff proposals to upgrade the safety and capacity of the popular southbound bike lane on Royal Parade. Our project team have also held similar discussions with other sporting club stakeholders which use Princes Park.

Based on feedback received we have finalised a proposed interim design for the Royal Parade bike lane upgrade (summarised below). This applies for the section of Royal Parade adjacent to Princes Park. See **Attachment 1**.

INTERIM ROYAL PARADE BIKE LANE PROPOSAL – ADJACENT TO PRINCES PARK:

- All parking spaces on the east side of Royal Parade will become “No Stopping” during the AM Peak Period (7.00am-9.30am on weekdays).
 - Existing parking arrangements will be maintained in the section of Royal Parade between levers and Walker Streets closest to Ikon Park until the construction of the stadium is complete in April 2022. This allow contractors to continue using this parking area when they need to carry heavy tools and equipment from their parked vehicles each day.
 - After the stadium construction is completed, the AM Peak “No Stopping” restriction will also be installed in this section of Royal Parade to provide a consistent treatment along Royal Parade.
- For now, parking spaces will be maintained along Royal Parade outside of this weekday AM Peak period.

Improved bike safety treatments will also be implemented on the approaches to signalised intersections, and across the left turn slip lane into Cemetery Road.

The decision to maintain for now all parking spaces outside of the weekday AM Peak Period has been based on discussions with sporting clubs. These discussions indicated that once normal conditions apply again (post-COVID), there may be times when many sporting clubs and recreational visitors use Princes Park at the same time. We understand this creates parking demands around the park and that the removal of parking on Royal Parade during weeknight and weekend periods could create concerns for some sporting clubs.

The City of Melbourne’s Transport Strategy 2030 outlines a commitment to delivering protected bike lanes throughout the city to reduce road trauma and encourage more people to ride. Royal Parade is identified by the Victorian Government as a Strategic Cycling Corridor and is one of the busiest cycling routes in our city. As our city recovers from COVID it is more important than ever to be providing opportunities for people to travel safely and efficiently by bike. There is an immediate need to enhance the safety and capacity of the southbound bike lane on Royal Parade during the busiest AM peak period. Further information about the project including the benefits, bike volumes, parking occupancy survey data and likely impacts is detailed in **Attachment 2**.

If you have any concerns or comments about these proposed parking changes in Royal Parade, please feel free to call Ross Goddard or Luke Poland on 9658 9658.

In early 2022 we will undertake comprehensive parking occupancy surveys and consider any further parking changes to provide future bike lane improvement. We will share parking survey results and any proposed further changes with clubs prior to considering implementing any additional parking changes.

Yours sincerely



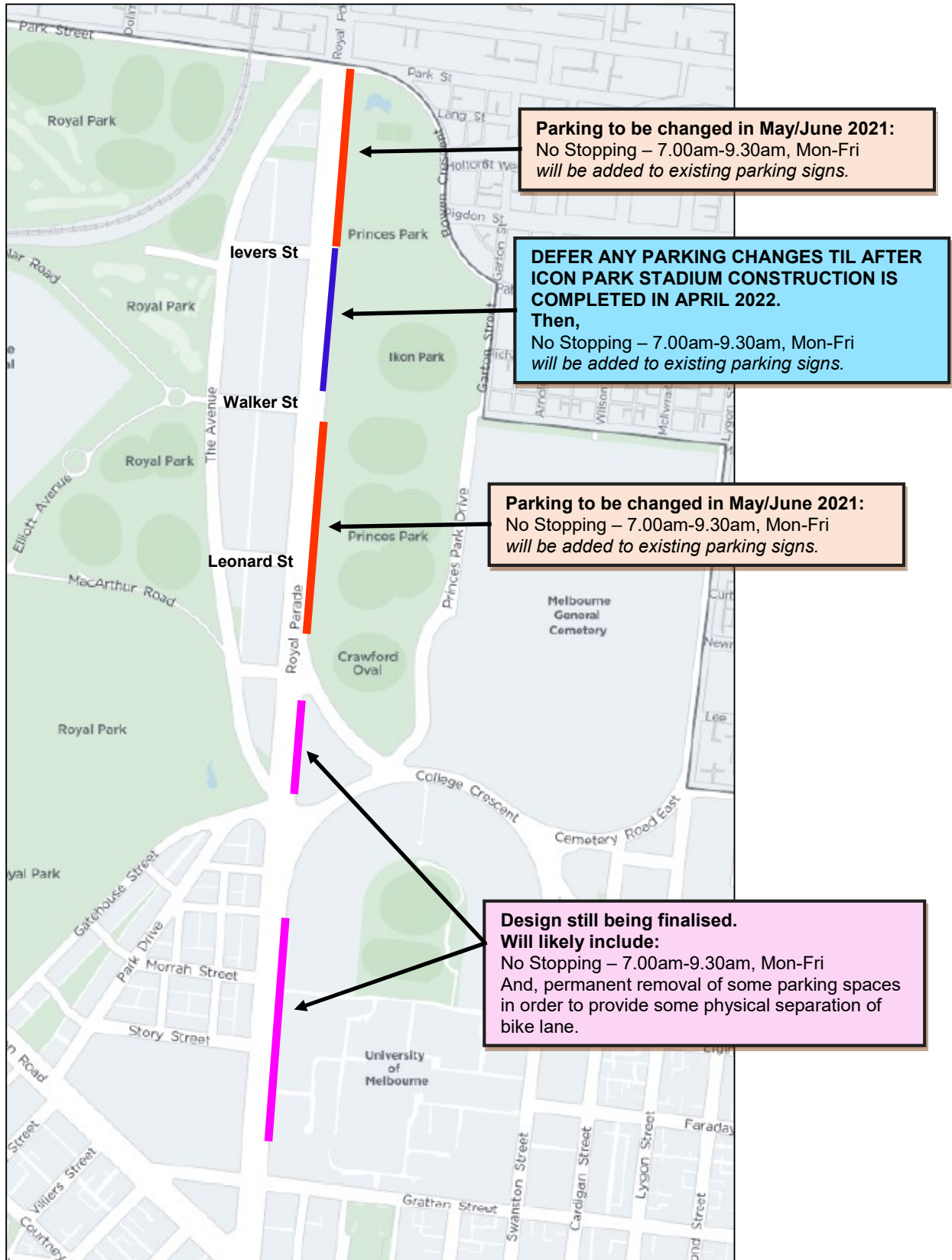
Craig Stevens

Acting Director – Infrastructure and Assets Branch

CoM reference DM # 14616151

Attachment 1

Royal Parade – Proposed Parking Changes to improve Bike Safety



Attachment 2

Further background information

Why these changes are needed: existing bike volumes

In March 2019, a survey recorded a total of 830 people riding bikes in the southbound direction along Royal Parade during the AM Peak Hour (8-9am). This included 729 bike riders using the on-road bike lane and 101 people riding along the shared path, indicating a strong desire for people to ride along the roadway.

This represents the highest volume of bike riders using any on-road bike lane in Victoria. With new protected bike lanes recently constructed along Peel Street-William Street and College Crescent-Swanston Street, we anticipate an increase in new and less confident people using these routes to ride to the city. If the volume of bike riders continue to increase, it will soon represent a number similar to the volume of southbound motor vehicles (1,500) which are currently using Royal Parade during the AM peak hour.

Benefits of Proposed AM Peak Period Bike Lane Upgrade

The removal of on-street parking during the AM peak period will allow the effective width of the bike lane to be significantly widened during this busy cycling period. Bike riders will essentially be able to use the full width of the existing parking bays and bike lane area, which will remove the need for people to ride into the traffic lane when passing other bikes. This will also eliminate the potential for 'car dooring' collisions and will enhance the overall feeling of comfort within this bike lane.

Impacts of Parking Changes - Proposed AM Peak Period "No Stopping"

We understand that the majority of sporting clubs will experience minimal impact as a result of the removal of parking from the east side of Royal Parade during the weekday AM peak period.

Nevertheless, if your sporting club need to park adjacent to Princes Park between 7.00am-9.30am on weekdays, we suggest that you find alternate parking opportunities in the streets on the east side of Princes Park, such as Princes Park Drive, Garton Street and Bowen Crescent. Recent parking occupancy surveys undertaken on Wednesday 3 March 2021 indicate that the 190 "All-Day-Ticket" parking spaces (\$1 per hour) along the park side of these streets have a maximum day-time occupancy of 33 percent. This means that there are at least 127 spare available spaces here throughout a normal weekday that your staff could use. The occupancy of these spaces did increase to 54 percent at 7pm, presumably when evening sporting games were held in Princes Park. Even at this time, there were 87 spare available parking spaces available along these streets, which are free and unrestricted in the evenings after 6.30pm.