

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Boroondara Bicycle Users Group
Response to:

City of Boroondara
Draft Council Plan 2008-2013

16 May 2008 – Rev 1a

Submissions will be received until 5pm Monday 19 May 2008 and will be formally presented to the Services Special Committee Meeting on Monday 2 June 2008.

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Introduction

BBUG thanks the council for providing us with the opportunity to present a submission in response to the council plan. BBUG will make this submission available on its website.

Referenced documents:

Draft Council Plan 2008-2013 in PDF

Executive Summary

Four points in the plan are addressed and alternatives and/or additions are submitted.

BBUG suggested recommended actions

First submission point and referring to the draft plan:

*Draft Council Plan 2008-2013, page 37
7. Maintaining Boroondara's assets (cont'd)*

Our commitments

7.3.2 Commitment: Plan and commence construction of the unsealed section of the Gardiners Creek bicycle trail between Anniversary Trail and Warrigal Road, Ashburton.

*Responsible department
Strategic Planning*

BBUG is a keen supporter of addressing the missing link in the Gardiners Creek shared path in East Malvern from the Solway Bridge to the Warrigal Rd / Gardiners Creek bridge.

The commitment cited from the draft Council plan implies the Council's proposed "Markham Reserve" route will address this "missing link". Although the Markham path would be an asset in its own right for many users, it may not provide the best solution for a regional link. Cyclists remain concerned that the best solution may not have been found and that community funds may not be spent wisely.

Now that a Boroondara Council decision on the project has been postponed until late in 2008, BBUG believe that it is important to again look at the big picture in the valley. An independent body could still carry out a genuine feasibility study to determine the best possible route between the two bridges. The origin and destination of existing cyclists should be investigated; particularly those currently passing the Malvern Valley Golf Course clubhouse area, to ensure that key desire lines are addressed. A shared path investment is significant and will be for the long term, particularly the Warrigal Road underpass that is key to most route options, and so it is essential that the best overall solution is achieved for golfers, cyclists and walkers.

As the M1 widening is about to proceed, more opportunities are being presented. The VicRoads counter close to Solway St Bridge shows that 500 to 700 cyclists per day are using the Gardiners Creek shared path at that point. Many of these cyclists could benefit from more direct and improved routes.

For a far more detailed discussion, please visit our web page on the matter:

http://www.boroondarabug.org/wiki/index.php/Gardiners_Creek_Trail

BBUG would like to see the commitment reworded as follows:

"7.3.2 Commitment:

Plan and commence construction on connecting the Gardiners Creek shared path's downstream section, at Solway St Bridge to the Gardiners Creek shared path's upstream section, at Warrigal Road, Ashwood, with a sealed path. Exact route will be determined after looking at all the options."

Second submission point and referring to the draft plan:

Draft Council Plan 2008-2013, page 25

"4. Roads for communities

We will improve traffic management and parking management as a focus for the City of Boroondara. Council's emphasis includes advocating for more and better public transport and reduced congestion on our roads, managing vehicle speeds in local streets, examining on-street parking issues and improving the management of parking facilities in our activity centres."

BBUG would like to see cycling specifically mentioned in the paragraph above. Cycling is legitimate traffic and is commonly cited as a part solution to congestion problems by acting as car trip replacement. Bicycle Victoria is also promoting cycling as a part solution – their site on the subject:

<http://www.bv.com.au/change-the-world/41222/>

Providing better infrastructure will result in more people cycling and cycling in safer circumstances. BBUG would like to see the words, shown in bold below, added to the paragraph:

4. Roads for communities

*"We will improve traffic management and parking management as a focus for the City of Boroondara. Council's emphasis includes advocating for more and better public transport, **improved cycling infrastructure** and reduced congestion on our roads, managing vehicle speeds in local streets, examining on-street parking issues and improving the management of parking facilities in our activity centres."*

Third submission point and referring to the draft plan:

Draft Council Plan 2008-2013, page 14

1. Sustaining our environment

A VicRoad's counter demonstrates that 2000 to 2500 cyclists are utilizing the Gardiners Creek Trail in Boroondara per day. How would these cyclists travel to their destinations

if not by bicycle? Cycling is a sustainable approach to travel and has a major role in car trip replacement and greenhouse gas reduction.

BBUG would like to see an additional commitment added to the list of commitments in the section “*Sustaining our environment*”. As shown immediately below:

1.2.14 Commitment: Advocate for and develop cycling as a method of both sustainable transport and greenhouse reduction.

Fourth submission point and referring to the draft plan:

Draft Council Plan 2008-2013, Table Key Strategic Activities - Performance Measure, page 42

The table lists various activities and methods to monitor the progress of their implementation. BBUG would like a performance measure put in place that aims to measure the success or otherwise of the Council’s cycling policies in Boroondara.

Some examples:

- People cycling to work
- People using cycling as recreation
- Satisfaction surveys of Boroondara’s cycling infrastructure
- Bicycles parked around shopping centres on any one day
- Dollars spent per head of population

Refer also to Bicycle Victoria’s Bicycle Spending Index:

<http://www.bv.com.au/change-the-world/40830/>

Presentations to the Council

“Please indicate in your feedback your comments and if you would like the opportunity to present to Council in support of your submission, or you would like your name to be kept confidential. Unless indicated otherwise, submissions will be presented to Council including submitters’ name.”

BBUG would like to reserve the opportunity to present to the Council. Our submission would be in the name of the “Boroondara Bicycle Users Group”.