

Notice of Motion, Cr Leppert: Flemington Road lemon scented gums

19 April 2016

Motion

That the Future Melbourne Committee resolves that no work order be made or issued, or permission be granted, for the removal of lemon scented gums near the Flemington Road / Church Street intersection, due to the CityLink Tulla Widening project leaders not demonstrating to the satisfaction of the Council at this time that the trees (at least at the eastern end of the row) cannot be retained.

Background

At the point where Flemington Road approaches the Church Street intersection eastbound, there are currently five lanes of traffic: two originating from Mount Alexander Road and three originating from the CityLink offramp.

The CityLink Tulla Widening project proposes to recalibrate the intersection by increasing the off ramp lanes to five in order to increase the storage of cars coming off CityLink (thus reducing freeway congestion), and by increasing the eastbound Flemington Road lanes to the east of the Boundary Road intersection to four. It also proposes to create new traffic signals which control traffic from Flemington Road and the CityLink off ramp prior to both streams of traffic merging to become five lanes at the approach to the Church Street intersection.

Thus, there is no proposed increase in lanes inside the eastbound road corridor of Flemington Road as it approaches the Church Street intersection.

What the CityLink Tulla Widening project has not demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council, which manages the trees inside medians within VicRoads-controlled roads, is why the five eastbound Flemington Road lanes as they approach the Church Street intersection cannot retain part of the existing median (i.e. two lanes between the tram stop and median and three lanes between the median and footpath, as is currently the case), particularly the National Trust listed lemon scented gum at the eastern end of the row (attached).

A recalibration of the intersection which retains part of the median, and at least the eastern end of the row of trees, would demonstrably not impact on the CityLink off ramp storage or Flemington Road lane increase objectives of the CityLink Tulla Widening project or require any loss of proposed lanes or road capacity.

To date, the CityLink Tulla Widening project has asserted, but not demonstrated, that no option other than the option it proposes is feasible. Under the City's *Tree Retention and Removal Policy 2012*, demonstration of proof rather than an assertion is expected.

Council should therefore resist the loss of these significant trees, at least at the eastern end of the row.

Moved: Cr Leppert

Attachments:

1. Project diagram

Attachment 1



Fig. 1: National Trust-listed lemon scented gum at the Flemington Road / Church Street corner. (http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/search/natrust_result_detail/71367)

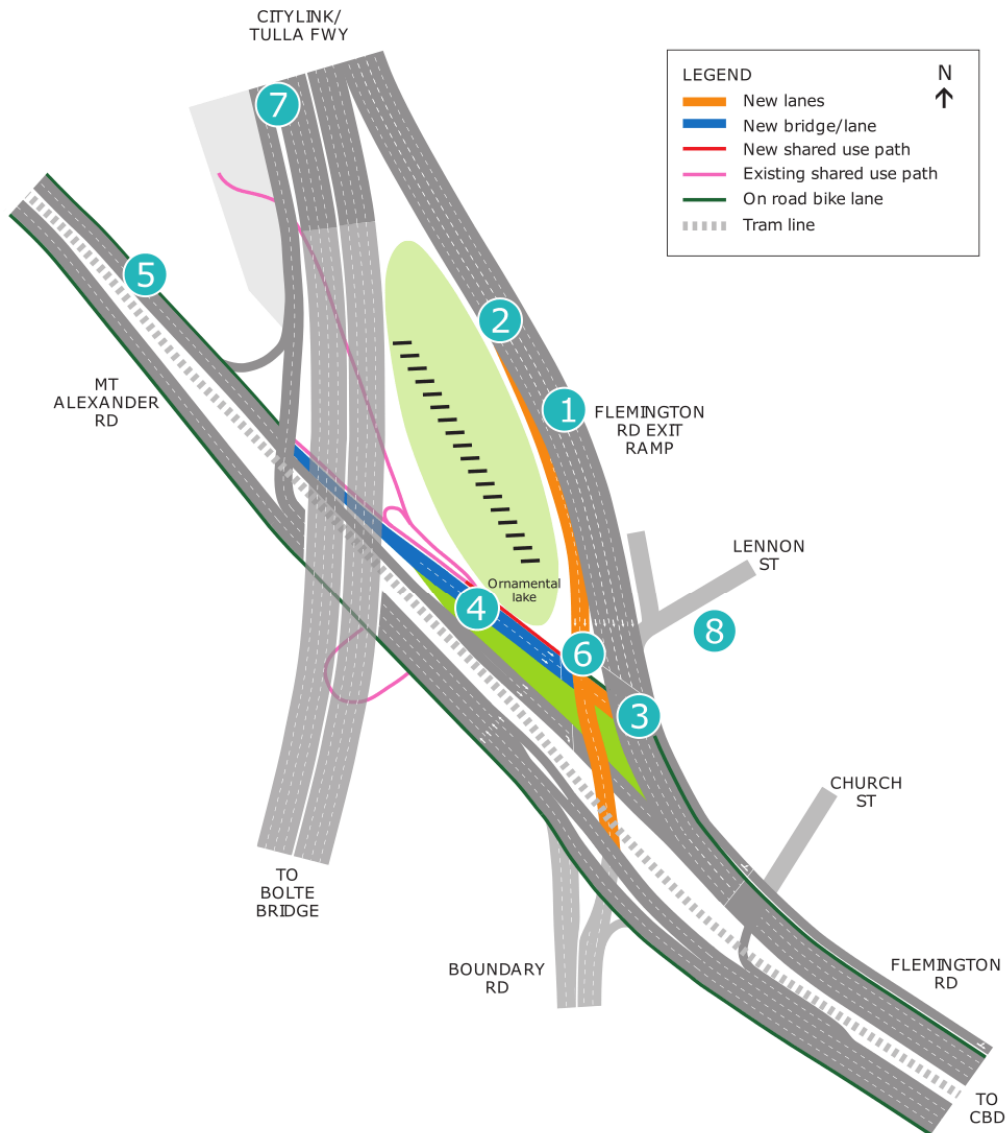


Fig. 2: CityLink Tulla Widening project diagram of intersection recalibration. Not to scale. (<http://citylinktullawidening.vic.gov.au>)