

Tuesday 3 December

Notice of Motion, Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood: Improving Peel, William and Victoria Streets pedestrian safety

Motion

1. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
 - 1.1. Requests the Chief Executive Officer to write to VicRoads requesting the speed reduction from 60km/h to 40km/h on the following streets:
 - 1.1.1. Peel Street between Dudley Street roundabout and Victoria Street
 - 1.1.2. William Street between Dudley Street roundabout and La Trobe Street
 - 1.2. Requests management to investigate the impacts of a hook-turn from Victoria Street into Peel Street; and
 - 1.3. Requests management to work with Yarra Trams to investigate opportunities to improve traffic signalling and overall tram efficiency along Peel and Victoria Streets.

Background

2. The City of Melbourne's recently endorsed Transport Strategy guides our overall approach to transport planning. However, it has been more than two years since traders made a request to reduce the speed limit on Peel Street, which would enable them to apply for a street trading permit and with the recent death of a pedestrian who was struck by a truck while crossing Peel Street, there is merit on moving forward with a speed limit reduction to the widely accepted safe limit of 40km/h.
3. This supports the intent of the Transport Strategy and is an opportunity to improve the safety and accessibility of the public, particularly our local and international visitors to the market.
4. There are considerable road variables along Peel Street including:
 - 4.1. A speed limit of 60km/h between Victoria and Dudley Streets then dropping to 50km/h from Dudley to La Trobe Streets
 - 4.2. Dual lanes for north and south bound traffic
 - 4.3. A pedestrian crossing and tram stop between Queen Victoria Market sheds E and F
 - 4.4. An entry and exit point for Queen Victoria Market parking
 - 4.5. A roundabout on the corner of Dudley and Peel Streets, which connects the West Melbourne and Melbourne precincts
5. Within this precinct is Queen Victoria Market which is Victoria's number one tourist attraction for international visitors. QVM welcomed close to 9 million visitors in the 2017-18 financial year. The City Of Melbourne's pedestrian count system indicated within the North West section of QVM, the pedestrian foot traffic on a regular day can reach up to 750, on the weekends over 2,000 and during the Night Market over 3,000.
6. Vehicle speed is the key determinant of the likelihood of death or serious injury in crashes with other road users. After five years of implementing the 40km/h speed limit in the central city, pedestrian collisions reduced by 36.5 per cent compared to the five years before. This equates to 170 people avoiding serious, lifelong and debilitating injury.

7. The current speed limit has prohibited traders on the west side of Peel Street from expanding to street trading and accommodating the high number of patrons.
8. Victoria Police supports the request to reduce the speed from 60km /h to 40 km/h on Peel and William Streets between Victoria and Latrobe Streets due to the increased risk to vulnerable road users in the area.

Moved: Cr Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood

Seconded: Cr Nicolas Frances Gilley