

Public Question Time and Submissions

Question from Kasey Edwards:

I am a member of Port Secondary School Council and a parent of the school. My question is about traffic and particularly pedestrian safety around the school. Firstly I'd like to thank the Councillors from the Gateway Ward for coming to our school and engaging with some very concerned parents. I thank you for your attention and understanding about the urgency and the risk of this issue. Given the significant risk and numerous near misses at the corner of Graham Street and Williamston Road I refer to the budget request for a crossing supervisor and ask what action is Council planning to take to provide a crossing supervisor, and when?

Response:

A further review of this site is being undertaken in partnership with the Department of Transport (DoT).

Council have been seeking safety improvements to support active travel to the school for some time. We have advocated for these to both the Department of Land, Water and Planning who are leading the planning process for Fishermans Bend, and to the Department of Transport (DoT) who manage the arterial road network that rings the school. The DoT have undertaken some improvement based on a Road Safety Audit (RSA) they undertook last year. Other recommendations are for larger longer term projects and more details on these are included in the table below. Council will continue to advocate for these larger projects, along with emerging issues like the one you have raised.

Following the school holidays, Council's and DoT's Traffic Engineers inspected the intersection of Williamstown Road and Graham Street to review the intersection and signal design, the volume and type of traffic, to better understand the number of students and other pedestrians using the crossing, including outside of school times. This identified that while the intersection is generally functioning safely, the left turn movement from Graham Street (northbound) into Williamstown Road, which you raised in your email, operated at the same time as the pedestrian crossing movement across Williamstown Road and could be a risk if drivers were not paying attention. Council officers have therefore requested DoT to consider how they can alter the signals to make this safer for pedestrians. This signal adjustment would provide a safer solution to this issue for all users at all times not just before and after school.

Traffic and pedestrian counts will also be undertaken this term. Should further safety treatments other than this turn movement, and/or a school crossing supervisor be recommended for the intersection following receipt of this data, Council will request DoT that they progress these as quickly as possible.

DoT actions to date

- In September 2021, DoT engaged Trafficworks, a private consultancy to undertake a road safety audit of the road network surrounding the Port Melbourne Secondary College. Roads involved in the audit included Plummer Street, Graham Street and Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne.
- As Plummer Street, Graham Street and Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne are declared roads which DoT are responsible for, they are also generally responsible for implementation of the recommendations of the Road Safety Audit and other safety improvements on these roads.

- DoT representatives have recently met with the school principal and discussed the current safety concerns in the area. It is understood that the southern entry to the school is being used as the primary access point being used by students to maximise the safety of these movements as an interim measure.
- DoT are investigating short term treatments, including quick signal timing changes, to assist pedestrian movements, while doing further investigations and development on the treatments involving more significant civil works.
- DoT have implemented a number of treatments:
 - The on-street parking spaces along the Graham Street frontage of the school site have been changed from approximately 12x unrestricted parking to parking controls to reflect the school (1x loading zone, 6x parking spaces, 2x accessible parking spaces and a bus zone). The accessible parking spaces and the bus zone were indented into the footpath to maintain safe operation of a slip lane from Graham Street into Plummer Street.
 - 40km/hr school speed zones have been approved by DoT and installed by the VSBA on approaches to the school on Graham Street (north of Plummer Street to Williamstown Road); Plummer Street (on both east and west approaches to Graham Street intersection) and Williamstown Road (on the western approach to the Graham St intersection).
 - Repair of damaged kerb and reinstatement of the cross over outside the school on Graham Street.
 - Augmentation of the ISLAND warning signs in Plummer Street with suitable warning signs.

Treatments to be implemented before the end of this Financial Year (30 June 2022) by DoT

Location	Proposed Treatment	Status
Graham St/Plummer St	Implement treatments on approach to Graham St slip-lane i.e. advance warning signs, low level landscaping to zebra crossing (in place of pedestrian fencing) and linemarking.	- advance warning signs (completed) - linemarking (scheduled for April subject to weather conditions) - landscaping (Scheduled for June)
Graham St/Plummer St	Install AGD smart pedestrian detectors at the Graham Street/ Plummer Street traffic signals to automatically extend pedestrian green time based on pedestrian flow over Plummer Street via the pedestrian island.	- Installation scheduled for June
Graham St, Plummer Street and Williamstown Road	Traffic volume counts and speed surveying to be collected to assess compliance with the completed linemarking & signage treatments in front of the school.	- Proposed for June 2022 once linemarking and signage treatments are installed.

Future treatments proposed by DoT

Some of the treatments that DoT have proposed in response to the Road Safety Audit recommendations require civil works, design work, come at a significant cost, and will have to be submitted to the government for funding consideration. As a result, DoT have only been able to provide high level timelines for each of these proposed treatments:

Location	Proposed Treatment	Status
Williamstown Road/Graham Street	Investigate AGD smart pedestrian detectors at this intersection. Possible extension of pedestrian green time.	Under investigation (short-medium term)
Plummer Street entrance into Woolworths carpark	Investigate crash trends, traffic movements suggest/direct to alternative entrances and possible designs changes or restrict certain movements.	Under investigation (medium-long term)
Williamstown Road/ Beacon Road	Signalised pedestrian crossing over Williamstown Road	Within DoT pipeline for further investigation. Any proposed treatment at this location will be submitted for funding consideration (long-term)
Graham Street/Plummer Street	Raised wombat crossing of slip lane will be explored depending on funding availability for development and its delivery. Noting but not limited to drainage and truck stability to be investigated.	For further investigation (long-term)

**Please note answers to any questions in Public Question Time and Councillor Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*