



MELBOURNE SOUTH YARRA RESIDENTS GROUP INC.

Established by the residents of South Yarra in 1969

3 April 2017

Mr Ted Phillips
Yarra Trams
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Email: blythechidgey@yarratrams.com.au

Yarra Trams – Early Works Plan

Dear Ted,

While you will be aware of most of our concerns as a result of previous meetings and correspondence the purpose of this letter is to respond specifically to your early works plan.

We have been requesting plans showing the precise layout of Toorak Road West and St Kilda Road between that road and Domain Road for months but one was not received until 9.30pm on 30 March, Furthermore the plan was far from clear and as it was received only one business day before we must make our submission, we have had no opportunity to obtain input from the residents of South Yarra. Appropriate notice has not therefore been given and the requirement for our response being made by 11.59am on 3 April is completely unreasonable. We will be making a formal complaint to the MMRA and insisting upon redress.

However, based on our limited knowledge and feedback our response to your plan is as follows.

1. The critical requirement is that nothing you do should impede the flow of traffic along Toorak Road West and it appears to us that most of the problems will be created by what you say your “policy” requires you to do. As we have said previously, it is nonsense to suggest that such a policy must be applied and cannot be varied despite the harm it will cause.
2. In this case we understand the “superstop” will reduce the traffic to one lane on both sides which is then further exacerbated by the fact that the tram lines are to be elevated. By making these changes in the last 500 metres or so after eight kilometers or more of two lanes along Toorak Road makes no sense at all and must be changed. If common sense is to prevail the “policy” must be varied. If not the traffic build-up will be disastrous and its impact upon this neighbourhood extreme and entirely unreasonable. The size of the ‘superstop’ must be reduced to permit two lanes of traffic on both sides.

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3. Traffic flow must be further improved by removing parking, particularly on the south side and by making this section of road a permanent clearway but if not at the very least during peak periods. On both sides this should extend from Park Street to St Kilda Road.
4. The tram line should not be elevated as to do so will serve no useful purpose over this short distance at this end of the journey and will only make traffic difficulties more severe including in particular the ability of vehicles to exit safely from Millswyn Street, Hope Street and Domain Street and head west.
5. The existing pedestrian lights leading to the child-care centre must be retained.
6. All relevant infrastructure to enable trams to be returned to Park Street and Domain Road must be retained as this community including residents, businesses and Melbourne Girls' Grammar School consider that service to be an integral and essential part of South Yarra.
7. In order to ensure that the tram is returned to those roads on completion of this project the interchange tram stop in St Kilda Road must be moved up to or north of Domain Road. We understand that at the moment that stop is south of Domain Road and if it remains there, there will be no possibility of the Park Street/Domain Road tram being returned.

RETURN OF TRAM SERVICE ESSENTIAL

The tram service along Park Street and Domain Road must be restored when this project is completed. To move the route to Toorak Road West will significantly disadvantage the residents, particularly the elderly and those in the north east sector, the businesses in Domain Road and the students of Melbourne Girls Grammar School. Loss of the safe and ready access to the tram at the corner of Park Street and Domain Road will be a serious loss to the students and put their safety at risk.

To move the tram to the periphery of South Yarra would result in a serious degradation of the service this community has had since the 1800's and must under no circumstances be permitted

Finally, we insist upon the right to make further comments when we receive further feedback from the South Yarra community.

Yours sincerely,

Michael A Butcher
President
Melbourne South Yarra Residents Group Inc

cc. Mr Simon Adams
South Yarra Precinct Manager - Domain
Melbourne Metro Rail Authority

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