

Cyclists swarm when it counts

Moonee Valley tracks 1600 in biggest bike survey yet, writes TIM KING



Graham Bradshaw cycles along Mt Alexander Rd near the Mooltan St intersection in Flemington.

N50MV103

Figures prove case for improvements

CYCLISTS have praised the biggest cyclist count yet held in Moonee Valley.

Moonee Valley Bicycle User Group member Graham Bradshaw and vice-president Frank Kinnersley said the national Bicycle Network's annual Super Tuesday count, which noted more than 1600 bike movements in the city from 7-9am, gave the council

and VicRoads firm data to work on. "You can make a much better case for facilities for funding," Mr Bradshaw said.

He said cyclists had previously successfully lobbied authorities to paint a green strip at the Mt Alexander Rd-Mooltan St corner in Flemington to clearly indicate to motorists that the bike lane continued through the intersection.

Cyclists had made their case after gathering data on crashes there. The Super Tuesday results, released last month, would support initiatives ranging from extra bike lanes to better signs.

Bike Network facilities development manager Mike Williamson said this year's results showed much larger increases on routes with effective bike infrastructure.

MORE than 1600 peak-hour bicycle movements have been noted across Moonee Valley in its largest bicycle count.

Bicycle Victoria last month released figures from the national Bicycle Network's annual Super Tuesday count from 7am to 9am on March 2.

Counts were taken at 20 sites throughout the city, up from only one site counted in 2009 – the first year Super Tuesday was held in Moonee Valley.

Bicycle Victoria's Jeff McPhan said 233 cyclists were sighted at the Mangalore St-Mt Alexander Rd intersection near Travancore – up 19 per cent on the 195 there last year.

Just south, 236 cyclists were recorded at Mooltan St-Mt Alexander Rd – the city's busiest count site – with 199 recorded on the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail nearby.

It is likely that some cyclists were counted at more than one site.

"Super Tuesday is Australia's largest visual bike count," Mr McPhan said.

He said Moonee Valley's 20 sites were among 877 sites monitored this year in 33 municipalities nationwide, including 13 in metropolitan Melbourne.

Mr McPhan said Moonee Valley's results this year would help Moonee Valley Council track how main riding routes grew and where

BULK BIKES

Other Moonee Valley cyclist count sites included:

Moonee Ponds, 174 at the Maribyrnong-Mt Alexander roads intersection and 45 at Orford St-Maribyrnong Rd;
Flemington, 166 at Racecourse Rd-Stubbs St, 86 at Smithfield-Racecourse roads and 62 at the Stockmans Trail towards Essendon Rd;
Essendon, 64 at Hoffmans-Keilor roads and 62 at Mt Alexander Rd-Thorn St;
Aberfeldie, 61 at Holmes Rd-The Boulevard;
Strathmore, 55 at the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail-footbridge to Wheeler St; and
Ascot Vale, 39 at Ascot St-Epsom Rd and 29 at Kent St-Ascot Vale Rd.

cycling infrastructure – such as bike lanes – was needed.

"Councils haven't had the data available (previously)," he said.

Moonee Valley Mayor Shirley Cornish said the data would help the council lobby VicRoads for improved cycling facilities as well as review its cycling and walking strategy.

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