

Stuart Grant  
Team Leader Recreation  
City of Yarra PO Box 168  
Richmond 3121

Dear Stuart

In response to your information relating to the potential upgrade of the Main Yarra Trail between Bridge Road and Gardiner's Creek Bridge, Bicycle Victoria strongly supports this initiative.

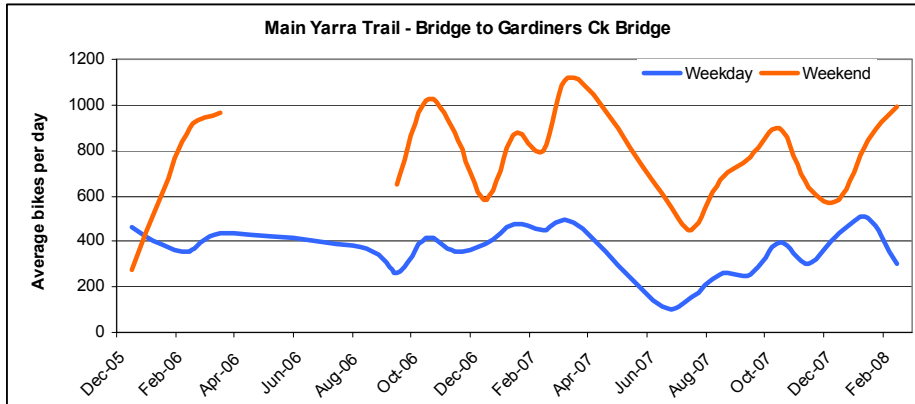
This section of path has seen high use over the years and with the strong growth of rider numbers the current poor state of the path cannot meet this high demand. Rider numbers are particularly strong along this section on the weekends and holidays which would suggest it is used primarily for recreation, as opposed to commuting.

In 2006 Sport and Recreation Victoria funded the Main Yarra Trail directly west of the proposed application, between Gardiners Creek Bridge and MacRobertson Bridge. This was a high quality project and has been an outstanding success, becoming a benchmark for other path construction efforts to reference. We believe complimenting SRV's previous funding efforts on the trail would deliver a further high yield in participation.

The Bridge Rd to Gardiners Ck path currently is of poor quality and many riders are not using it, instead choosing to ride on road along the boulevard or, more commonly, turn around.

The location, availability and amenity of this precinct offers an 'easy win' to generate more recreational riding and thus generate more 'heartbeats' and activity in general. Other path users such as walkers, joggers and roller-bladers will also greatly benefit from the improvement in this trail.

The graph below shows rider numbers. Note that these figures do not reflect other path users.



In summary Bicycle Victoria strongly supports the City of Yarra's application for funding to see the Main Yarra Trail realise its full potential as one of Melbourne's premier recreational facilities.

Regards

Jason den Hollander  
Facilities Development Manager  
Bicycle Victoria