



Improving Melbourne for wheels, paws and feet

September 2018





Greensborough Road walking and cycling paths. Artist impression only. Subject to change.

Connecting communities by foot and bike

Constructing an eastern bike corridor, two new Yarra River crossings and completing missing walking and bike riding links play a key role in improving all forms of transport for Melbourne.

Our team of engineers, who also happen to be passionate bike riders, have been working hard with riders, walkers and runners to plan for around 25 kilometres of new and improved paths and trails for riders and pedestrians (as well as their furry friends).

We've put together a draft design for walking and bike riding for North East Link, including:

- Completing the long awaited eastern bike corridor - a new commuter bike riding route to the inner city along the Eastern Freeway between Chandler Highway and Merri Creek
- Two new crossings of the Yarra River (at Yarra Street, Heidelberg and next to the Eastern Freeway, Kew/Fairfield)
- Completing the missing link in the Greensborough bypass path between

Grimshaw Street and Yallambie Road

- New paths along Bulleen Road to improve access to schools and sporting facilities
- Improved bike riding connections to access places where people work, shop and spend time in the north-east.

These new connections link to existing walking and bike riding paths improving access to the Watsonia and Heidelberg town centres, as well as the community facilities along Bulleen Road.

The eastern bike corridor would provide a more direct route between the inner city and the eastern suburbs, and avoid steep and narrow sections of the existing Main Yarra Trail.

North East Link will also significantly expand the Strategic Cycling Corridor

network in the north-east, with new routes to Greensborough, Watsonia, Heidelberg and La Trobe University, connecting people to local shops, attractions like Heide Gallery, and jobs.

These improvements also deliver on the long-term strategic plan for cyclists in our city – this will accelerate the rollout of the Strategic Cycling Corridor, which was a recommendation as part of Infrastructure Victoria's 30 year plan.

We have held workshops on walking and bike riding in person and online, which gave us some great insight from locals as well as keen bike riders and walkers from across Melbourne. We continue to work with walkers and riders in the community to help to shape the look and feel of North East Link's walking and cycling links.

Eastern Freeway: new bike corridor

As part of the Eastern Freeway overhaul, a new walking and bike riding path would be constructed between Merri Creek and Chandler Highway.

The eastern bike corridor is a new cycling link providing a fast and direct connection between the inner city and the eastern suburbs for those who ride.

It bypasses a meandering section of the Main Yarra Trail, steep grades approaching and along Yarra Boulevard and avoids the narrow Fairfield Pipe Bridge. From Merri Creek to the east side of Chandler Highway, it follows the Eastern Freeway, including a new bridge across the Yarra River and underpasses at Chandler Highway and Yarra Boulevard.

Further upgrades to the Eastern Freeway corridor include:

- A new bicycle path near the Burke Road interchange, to short-cut the existing trail which currently detours around the Burke Road Billabong Reserve.
- Path upgrades to the existing Main Yarra Trail between Belford Road and Burke Road, which is generally in poor condition, narrow and steep in some sections (including bypassing the steep section of Belford Road).
- Replacing all existing footbridges between Bulleen Road and Springvale Road with shared use bridges and a new walking and bike riding bridge at Bulleen Road.
- New underpasses at Bulleen Road and Doncaster Road to bypass traffic lights.



Aerial view of eastern bike corridor at Yarra Boulevard, Kew
Artist impression only. Subject to change.

Bulleen and Heidelberg: Art, sport and education links

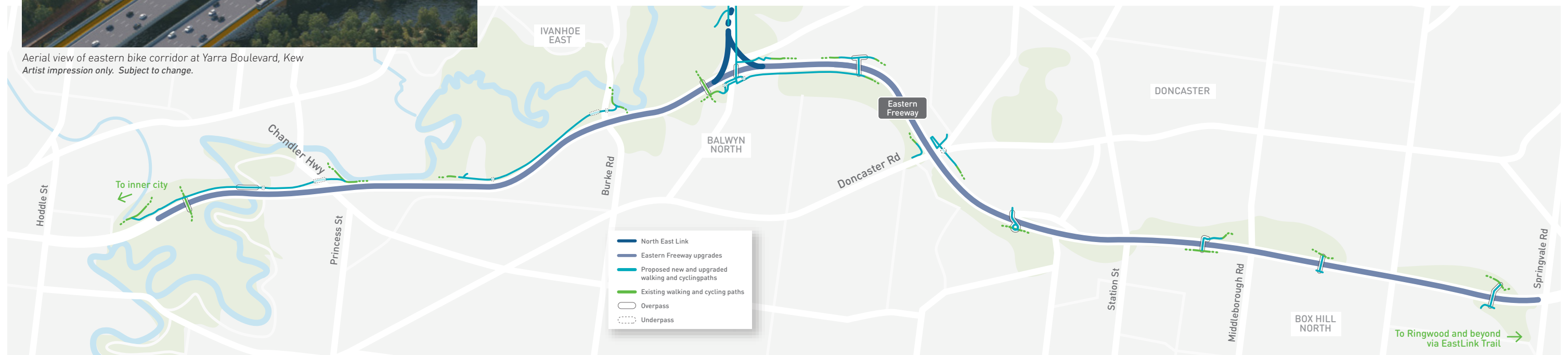
Walking and bike riding links in this area provide better connections for schools and sports fields, clubs and grounds as well as Heide Gallery.

These upgrades include:

1. A new walking and bike riding bridge across the Yarra connecting Yarra Street and Banksia Park.
2. A new walking path at the Manningham Road interchange. This path connects Banksia Park to Bulleen Road.
3. A new walking and bike riding path along the eastern side of Bulleen Road between the Manningham Road interchange and Thompsons Road.
4. A new footpath along the western side of Bulleen Road between Manningham Road and the Eastern Freeway.
5. Three new signalised crossings across Bulleen Road for pedestrians to safely cross, at the North East Link ramps, the Veneto Club and the Marcellin College access road.
6. A new walking and bike riding path along Thompsons Road, between Bulleen Road and the Koonung Creek Trail.
7. A new walking and bike riding bridge on the eastern side of the Bulleen Road overpass at the Eastern Freeway. This will mean safer and easier crossing of the freeway, linking the new Bulleen Road path with the residential areas south of the freeway.



New walking and cycling paths at Bulleen Road
Artist impression only. Subject to change.



Greensborough Road corridor: Green bridges and fixing missing links

This walking and cycling path would be parallel to the above ground sections of North East Link, completing the missing link in the Greensborough Road corridor. The upgrades along this corridor include new paths and crossings over North East Link, including:

1. An upgraded walking and bike riding bridge over the M80 Ring Road near Macorna Street, linking into the existing Metropolitan Ring Road path.
2. A new walking and bike riding path between Macorna Street and Grimshaw Street.
3. A new, accessible bridge over Yando Street.
4. Grade separated crossings on both sides of North East Link under Grimshaw Street.
5. New walking and bike riding paths on the western and eastern sides of North East Link between Grimshaw Street and Watsonia Road.
6. A new walking and bike riding connection from Elder Street to Watsonia Station.
7. A new walking and bike riding path between Watsonia Road and Yallambie Road and widening of the existing path between Yallambie Road and Lower Plenty Road.
8. Three new signalised pedestrian crossings across Greensborough Road, at Drysdale Street, Strathallan Road and Wattle Drive.
9. A new east-west walking and bike riding path in the reserve north of Drysdale Street - between Greensborough Road and Lower Plenty Road.
10. A grade separated crossing of Lower Plenty Road to the River Gum Walk trail, removing cyclists from the Lower Plenty Road interchange.



We are also connecting these new paths to local communities with:

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| 11. A new bike riding route on Nell Street. | 13. A new Greensborough Road to La Trobe University on-road bike riding route. |
| 12. A new walking and bike riding path at Morwell Avenue. | 14. A new bike riding route along Lower Plenty Road. |



Grade separated crossing of Lower Plenty Road. Artist impression only. Subject to change.



New bridge across the Eastern Freeway and boardwalk, linking to Koonung Creek walking and cycling paths. Artist impression only. Subject to change.

No more huffing and puffing up to Belford Road

One of the top issues we heard from people during our community sessions was that you need to almost be an athlete to pedal up to Belford Road in Kew. After assessing a number of options, our design now includes a new 500-metre bicycle path on the north side of the Eastern Freeway at freeway level (separated by a crash barrier and screen) and under the Belford Road bridge. This addresses these grade issues at Belford Road so you can cycle more comfortably.

A quicker, more direct route under Burke Road

While we were investigating Belford Road, we also identified an opportunity for a more direct route for riders travelling between the east and west by extending the path next to the Doncaster Busway under Burke Road. This new path would be approximately 700 metres shorter than the existing route around Burke Road Billabong, saving bike riders two to three minutes in travel time.

Keeping paths and trails connected

People have told us how important existing walking and cycling paths are to them, especially Koonung Creek walking and cycling paths and bridges across the Eastern Freeway. While some paths would need to be moved, we will maintain and improve connectivity for pedestrians and bike riders. We would replace five pedestrian bridges along the Eastern Freeway, turning them into walking and cycling bridges that are accessible for people with disabilities. The image above shows the replacement bridge connecting Heyington Avenue in Doncaster to the Koonung Creek reserve.

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Translation service

 for languages other than English, please call 9679 9896.

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