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Kat Theophanous

Candidate for Northcote

Labor



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RESPONSE:

1. What is your view regarding the current active transport infrastructure in your electorate?

We know that encouraging the uptake of active transport delivers key health and wellbeing benefits, reduces emissions and eases congestion. In Northcote, active transport is becoming an increasingly popular choice for commuting to work, travelling to school and for recreation.

Together with my community, we have achieved some significant improvements in active transport infrastructure over the last four years.

We're building a footbridge to link Alphington to the Darebin Yarra trails, ensuring that locals have a safe and quick connection to hundreds of kilometres of beautiful trails.

We've also started planning work to bridge the missing links in the Capital City Trail and Merri Creek Trail Strategic Cycling Corridor. And we're delivered more, safer cycling routes across our suburbs as part of the Victorian Government pop up bike lane program.

Active transport has also been embedded in local major projects like the new Chandler Highway Bridge and level crossing removals with new, accessible shared pathways for the whole community to enjoy.

But there is always more work to do.

2. What actions will you take to improve active transport in your electorate?

I will continue to work with residents and stakeholders to identify opportunities for improvement across our suburbs. This includes working on the future of our local pop-up bike lanes and improving road safety.

In addition to infrastructure, I believe improving and encouraging the uptake of active transport is about education and road safety reform like Victoria's minimum distance laws.

My view is that it's our residents, who have the on the ground knowledge of what works for our area. My priority is working with them to build on this impressive track record to deliver the quality projects our community needs.

Over 250km of cycling and walking paths are being built or planned through our major transport infrastructure program and an additional 100 km of new and improved cycling routes being trialed across inner urban suburbs.



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3. Active transport spending at the state level is less than 2 per cent. In your view, what is a 'fair spend' for active transport?

For me, a 'fair spend' for active transport is about the outcomes we can deliver for our community and the quality of that investment.

Locally that means making it safer and easier for people to enjoy our beautiful natural environment and choose active transport options for their commute or trip to school.

State-wide, Labor is focused on achieving our ambitious target of 25% of trips to be by foot or cycling by 2030 – a key element of our Climate Change Strategy.

We are also working to deliver '20-minute neighbourhoods' under the Plan Melbourne program which is allowing people to meet most of their daily needs within a 20-minute walk from home – reducing the need for vehicles and further encouraging active transport uptake.