10 November 2022

Robert Lim Candidate for Mulgrave

Victorian Greens

RESPONSE:

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

I think it's not good enough. The hallmark of good active transport infrastructure is when parents think it's safe enough for their children to use. Right now, that just isn't the case at all. In much of Mulgrave, active transport infrastructure is nonexistent: walking feels unsafe, and there are barely any good cycling routes. It should always feel more convenient to walk 1km and bike 2km than to drive the same distance, but that just isn't the case most of the time. I believe that we need to spend more on active transport infrastructure, and start treating active transport seriously as an alternative to driving.

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

Lobbying for safe medium-distance bicycle routes. We should aim to build paths that are seperated from motor traffic. They should be in areas where they can be used to get to a train station or shopping centre by normal people. A route from Noble Park station to Waverley Gardens shopping centre to the Eastlink Trail would connect many residents with a useful active transport route.

Regional trails to increase overall connectivity should also be considered. While these lay outside of Mulgrave electorate, their effects are far more wide-ranging. A North-South regional trail should be considered: either along Springvale road, from Springvale station to Glen Waverley station or extending the Westall Rd trail through Blackburn Rd to Syndal. This is a "missing link" in our regional routes.

I would like to see two improvements to the Djerring trail. First, the segments between Hughsdale and Clayton need to meet the standards of the rest of the trail: a route is only as good as its weakest point. Safety concerns have been raised for its narrowness, poor lighting, and poor visibility. Second, the trail extending to Dandenong station would improve its utility: with Dandenong having a high concentration of employment.

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

Investment in active transport just makes sense. It is cost-effective, climate-friendly, and has benefits for health and the community. 10-20% is a fair spend.

