

What we heard – Seabrook Boulevard and Shane Ave Traffic Calming Project

Project Details

Background information

There are traffic congestion issues on Seabrook Boulevard and Shane Avenue in Seabrook during the morning peak as commuters try to avoid traffic congestion on Point Cook Road and as families drop children to school. Traffic congestion in these streets has been increasing significantly over the last 20 years.

Over the last 10 years, a number of traffic calming initiatives have been implemented in the residential streets. These include the installation of speed humps, the narrowing of intersections and the creation of a drop off zone in Mintaro Way. Council has also advocated VicRoads to address issues on Point Cook Road to improve traffic conditions in this area.

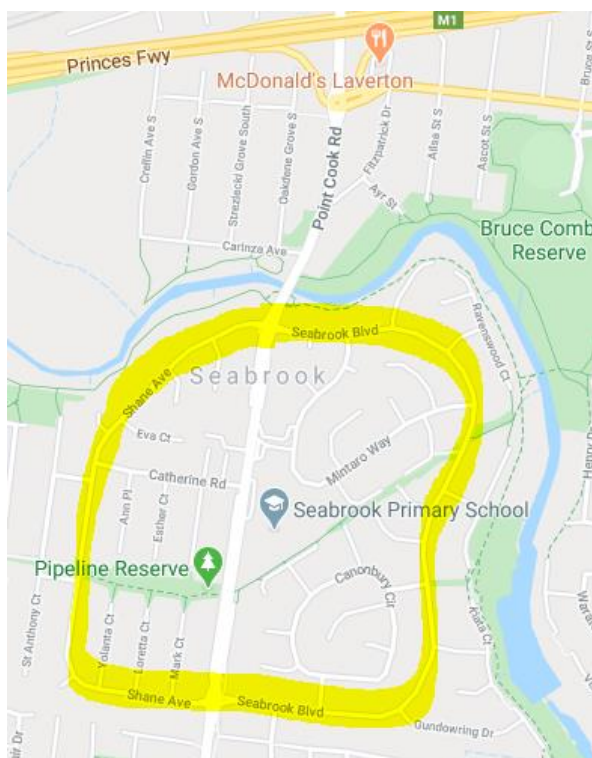


Image 1: Google Map of Shane Ave and Seabrook Boulevard, Seabrook

Engagement details

Engagement Dates	Tuesday 26 November – Friday 20 December 2019
Engagement activities	<p>Participate Hobsons Bay</p> <p><i>Shane Ave Traffic Calming Project</i></p> <p>Thursday 26 November - Friday 20 December 2019</p> <p><i>Seabrook Boulevard Traffic Calming Project</i></p> <p>Thursday 7 November – Friday 20 December 2019</p> <p>Community Drop In sessions</p> <p>Thursday 21 November 2019*, Seabrook Community Centre</p> <p>Thursday 12 December 2019, Linear Park, Seabrook</p>

** Note: The Community Drop In scheduled for the 21 November was cancelled due to inclement weather. An officer remained on site to advise of the cancellation and subsequently spoke with 100 residents who remained. A second Drop In was scheduled and held on Thursday 12 December 2019.*

Participate, Hobsons Bay – digital engagement statistics	<p>Total</p> <p>2,434 views of the Shane Ave and Seabrook Boulevard page</p> <p>285 contributions to the online engagement</p> <p>Breakdown</p> <p><i>Shane Ave Traffic Calming Project</i></p> <p>122 visits with 59 contributions from 23 people</p> <p><i>Seabrook Boulevard Traffic Calming Project</i></p> <p>2,312 visits with 226 contributions from 209 people</p>
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Summary of engagement outcomes

In March and April 2019, Council wanted to address a growing list of traffic concerns in the west of the municipality by seeking community input to develop the Western Package Local Area Movement Plan (LAMP). The resulting report identified two traffic for Seabrook Boulevard and Shane Ave in Seabrook. Please refer to Appendix One.

In November – December 2019, Council sought further information from the Seabrook community to gain insight in to

- local experience, observations, traffic concerns and suggestions for Shane Ave; and
- the preferred option of the community for the proposed traffic calming measures at Seabrook Boulevard, including
 - o Option One: Signage indicating no through traffic at morning peak
 - o Option Two: A mid-block closure of Seabrook Boulevard

The six week consultation included a community 'drop in' session and an opportunity to provide feedback on Council's digital engagement platform, Participate Hobsons Bay. Approximately 250 people attended an information session and the Participate page attracted 1,635 visits. There were 230 contributions as part of the engagement with 774 individual comments made.

The following insights were ascertained from the community consultation:

- The community believe the larger issue of congestion, which is caused by Point Cook traffic using Point Cook Road, is not being addressed
- The community do not support the two options presented for Seabrook Boulevard and believe any intervention must be replicated in both Seabrook Boulevard and Shane Avenue
 - 63.27% of respondents believe Option 1 would not work (143)
 - 48.23% of respondents believe Option 2 would not work (109)
 - 18.14% indicated they liked Option 2 but have concerns (40)
- Numerous, alternate solutions were put forward by the community as part of the consultation. These include (but are not limited to): a review of key intersections; the creation of alternate routes and pedestrian overpasses; improvements to signage, pedestrian and school crossings; public transport and parking at stations; as well as widening of Point Cook Road. For a full list of key themes and suggestions from the community please refer to Appendix Two.
- Community frustration levels are high considering
 - o the issue enters its' 20th year;
 - o peak hour traffic congestion gets worse with each release of housing development; and
 - o Safety concerns are continuing to rise due to speeding and 'rat running' through Shane Ave and Seabrook Boulevard.

A community petition was submitted and subsequently tabled at the Ordinary Council Meeting of 11 February 2020 which objected to Option Two for Seabrook Boulevard. Please refer to Appendix Three.



Image 2: Photo of community comments received at the Community Drop In session on December 12 2019

Engagement results

Seabrook Boulevard Traffic Calming Project

1. Are you a resident of Seabrook?

- Yes 80.97 % (187)
- No 19.43 % (43)
- Total 226

2. If yes, which street do you live in?

Not detailed in the report to protect privacy of respondents.

3. If no, which suburb do you live in?

- Altona Meadows 2
- Altona North 1
- Main Ridge 1
- Sanctuary Lakes 1
- Seaholme 1
- Truganina 1
- Williams Landing 1
- Williamstown North 1

4. Do you currently travel on Seabrook Boulevard in morning peak times?

- Yes 76.11 % (172)
- No 23.89 % (54)
- Total 226

5. Do you currently travel on Point Cook Rd during peak times?

- Yes 86.73 % (196)
- No 13.27 % (30)
- Total 226

6. Why do you use Point Cook Road compared to other roads out of Point Cook? Select all that apply

- I want the shortest route to the Princes Freeway 42.99% (95)
- I'm heading to the Laverton / Aircraft Train Station 41.18% (91)
- I'm heading onto Central Avenue 28.96% (64)
- I am taking my children to Seabrook Primary School 14.03% (31)
- I'm heading to childcare centres in Seabrook or Altona Meadows 7.24% (16)
- Other 24.89% (55)

The top five responses in "other" included:

- The other roads out of Point Cook put me further back in the freeway traffic, why would I use them?
- It is the easiest way to the freeway

- It is the closest access point to the freeway
- I'm heading into Altona / Laverton / Altona Meadows
- I'm heading to school / kinder / childcare further away than Altona Meadows.

7. What are the issues that you experience in Seabrook Boulevard and Point Cook Road?

Select all that apply

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| - Traffic congestion leading to prolonged delays | 90.27% (204) |
| - I live on Seabrook Boulevard and can't get out of my driveway | 21.68% (49) |
| - Have trouble turning onto local roads due to traffic congestion | 47.79% (108) |
| - Speeding cars | 27.88% (63) |
| - Other | 17.70% (40) |

Of the people who indicated that they had "other" issues comments included

- Can't get into the traffic on Seabrook Boulevard
- Shane Avenue
- Point Cook Road
- Short Cutting in streets other than Seabrook Boulevard
- People driving down the footpath and nature strip – particularly getting onto Mintaro Way
- Noise and pollution from cars and concerns of the environmental effects
- Speeding on Seabrook Boulevard
- Protesting residents
- Use of the service road as a rat run
- Speed humps on Seabrook Boulevard

8. What do you think of Option 1 - Signage indicating no through traffic at morning peak

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| - This is my preferred option | 20.35% (46) |
| - I don't think this will work | 63.27% (143) |
| - I would like to give this a chance first before implementing Option 2. | 16.37% (37) |

9. Do you have any comments on option 1?

163 comments were received. Of these, the top four themes were:

- The signage won't be followed
- This option would need enforcement
- The existing signage is not working
- Fix Point Cook Road

10. What do you think Option 2 - A Mid-block closure of Seabrook Boulevard?

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| - This is my preferred option | 22.57% (51) |
| - I don't think this will work | 48.23% (109) |
| - I would like to give Option 1 a chance before implementing Option 2 | 11.06% (25) |
| - I like Option 2 but I am concerned about implementing a hard closure of Seabrook Boulevard. | |

11. Do you have any comments on Option 2?

179 comments were received. Of these, the top five themes were:

- Concerned that this option would only disadvantage Seabrook Residents
- That they would consider a hard closure in a different location on Seabrook Boulevard – further south west on Seabrook Boulevard
- That this option doesn't address and would disadvantage school traffic
- That we should fix Point Cook Road
- That this option would increase traffic congestion on Point Cook Road

12. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

164 comments were received. The most common suggestions made include:

- Install traffic lights at the two roundabouts on Seabrook Boulevard / Shane Avenue and Point Cook Road
- Install rising bollards at the entrance to Seabrook Boulevard
- Install a swing gate at the Dunnings Road / Point Cook Road intersection
- Install a hard closure at Andrew Chirnside Drive and Seabrook Boulevard
- Install CCTV cameras to book non-residents of Seabrook to deter people from rat running Seabrook Boulevard
- Increased lanes on Point Cook Road that can change the direction of the traffic dependent on peak traffic
- Permanently gate Seabrook Boulevard so only residents can access

Shane Ave Traffic Calming Project

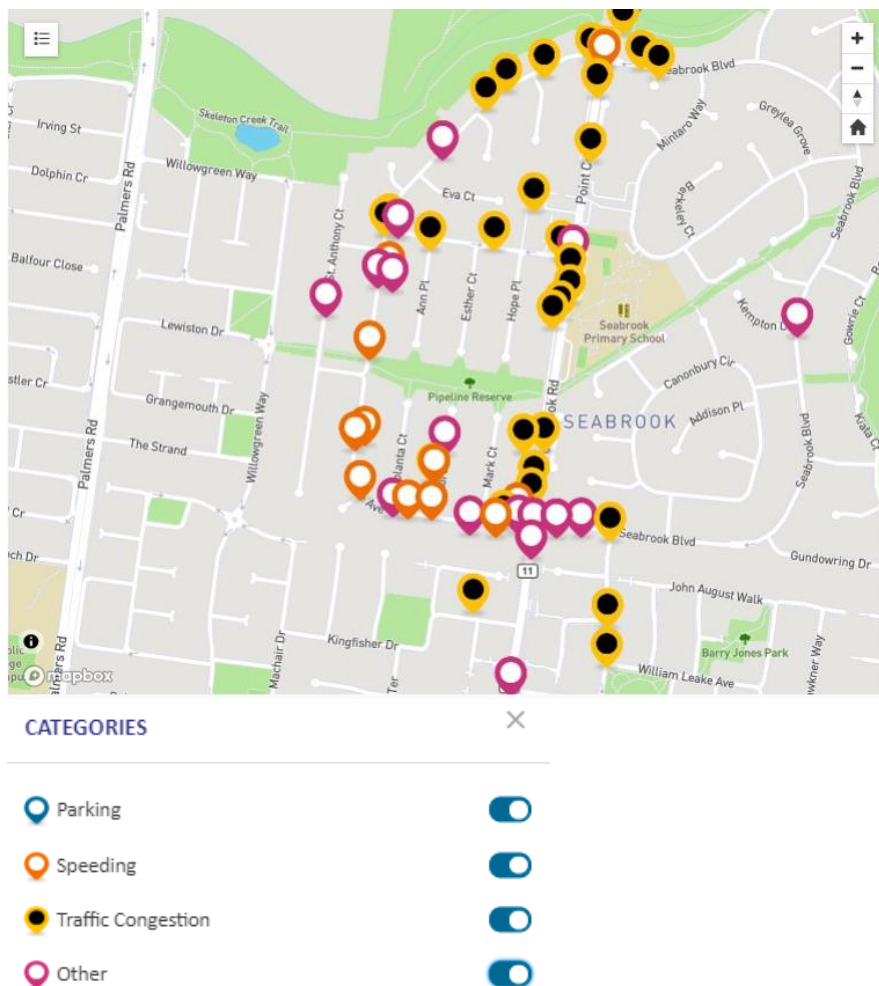
On the digital engagement platform, Participate, community members were invited to drop a 'marker' on the map to show their traffic hotspot in and around Shane Avenue.

They selected a category for the type of traffic issue (speed, traffic congestion or other) and typed comments about what is needed to address the issue.

59 contributions were received.

Category of the type of traffic issue you observe

- Traffic congestion	54% (32)
- Speeding	18% (11)
- Parking	0% (0)
- Other	27% (16)



Appendix One – Excerpt from Western Package LAMP Action List

Page 1, [https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/hdp.au.prod.app.hobs-participate.files/2715/7256/9595/Full Action List from the LAMP Western Package.pdf](https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/hdp.au.prod.app.hobs-participate.files/2715/7256/9595/Full_Action_List_from_the_LAMP_Western_Package.pdf)

Action 2

Improve amenity, increase safety for all road users, and deter through traffic on local roads by upgrading streetscapes and introducing traffic calming treatments, including:

- a) Traffic calming devices along Seabrook Avenue between the Point Cook Road intersections;
- b) Traffic calming devices along Shane Avenue between the Point Cook Road intersections;
- c) Traffic calming devices along Alma Avenue;
- d) Upgrading Aviation Road within the activity area to prioritise pedestrian movement and reduce vehicle speeds;
- e) Redesign the intersection of Victoria and Merton Street to reduce vehicle speeds and improve pedestrian and cyclist safety;
- f) Consider the partial closure of Kiora Street by closing off left-out traffic movements onto Newland Street;
- g) Consider the partial closure of Linden Street by closing off left-out traffic movements onto Newland Street;
- h) Consider making Alma Avenue one way east to west to make room for a bicycle lane and to improve traffic flow at school times;
- i) Consider no entry from Point Cook Road to Seabrook Boulevard and Shane Avenue from 7am-9am Mon-Fri to prevent rat running; and
- j) Consider road closures mid-block on Seabrook Boulevard and Shane Avenue to prevent rat running.

Appendix Two - Key themes

Across the two consultations for Shane Ave and Seabrook Boulevard there were 230 contributions with 774 individual comments made. From these, 26 themes emerged. These are listed below from highest to lowest response:

- The two options presented in the consultation will not solve the precinct's issues (121) 15.6%
- Duplicate / widen / fix Point Cook Road as a priority 15.5% (120)
- Residents would like to see the long term, sustainable outcome 14.9% (115)
- Concerns about the lack of infrastructure across the two suburbs 9.7% (75)
- Need to take a holistic approach to traffic and infrastructure across the two suburbs 7.9% (61)
- The growth of Point Cook is a planning failure 6.7% (52)
- Concerns on the growth of Point Cook and the lack of effective infrastructure 5.4% (42)
- Look at the diamond interchange where Point Cook Road comes out to the freeway, congestion at the two Aviation Road roundabouts and the pedestrian crossings to the station 2.6% (20)
- Look at creating an alternate way to Altona Meadows that does not go to the freeway 2.6% (20)
- Fix the conflicting pedestrian / school crossings on Point Cook Road in Seabrook 2.5% (19)
- Address school traffic and parking on Point Cook Road and within Seabrook Boulevard 2.2% (17)
- Fix the Central Avenue / Point Cook Road Roundabout 1.8% (14)
- Anything that happens in Seabrook Boulevard should be mirrored in Shane Avenue 1.6% (12)
- Better access to public transport 1.4% (11)
- Get rid of the service lanes on Point Cook Road to widen the road 1.3% (10)
- Build a pedestrian overpass on Point Cook Road 0.8% (6)
- There is ongoing development work on the other collector roads out of Point Cook that has increased the traffic heading up Point Cook Road 0.8% (6)
- Wait to see whether the Palmers Road upgrade works change the traffic scenario on Point Cook Road before implementing any changes 0.5% (4)
- Look at the provision of a safe pedestrian / shared path connection from Seabrook to the train stations 0.5% (4)
- The removal of the rail crossing at Aircraft Station has made the traffic congestion issues 0.5% (4)
- Issues with the growth of Point Cook and resentment towards the community accessing local Seabrook roads 0.4% (3)
- Better parking and access to train stations to encourage people to catch public transport rather than drive 0.3% (2)
- Better signage on Point Cook Road i.e. caution roundabout ahead (heading south before Skeleton Creek) 0.3% (2)
- Pedestrian crossing on Seabrook Boulevard to address the safety of school children 0.1% (1)
- A vehicle connection from Seabrook Boulevard to Palmers Road. 0.1% (1)

Appendix Three - Petition to Council

7 Petitions/Joint Letters

7.1 Petition - Opposition to Construction of a Barrier in Seabrook Boulevard, Seabrook

Directorate: Corporate Services

Councillor Portfolio: Integrated Transport - Cr Jonathon Marsden and Cr Sandra Wilson

Appendices: Nil

Purpose

To receive a petition, containing 169 signatories, opposing the construction of a barrier in Seabrook Boulevard, Seabrook dividing the estate into north and south sections.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the petition opposing the construction of a barrier in Seabrook Boulevard, Seabrook dividing the estate into north and south sections.**
 - 2. Receives a report on this matter at a future Council meeting.**
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Summary

The petition was received on 18 December 2019 and reads as follows:

"We the undersigned residents of Seabrook Estate vehemently oppose the division of the estate by the creation of a barrier that prevents the free-flow of traffic along the entire Seabrook Blvd in both directions."