

A SAFER MERTON STREET, ALTONA MEADOWS

WHAT WE HEARD (JANUARY 2022)

30 November to 23 December 2021
Council sought feedback from the community regarding a concept design of proposed traffic treatment created to make Merton Street, Altona Meadows safer.

The draft concept design includes measures to;

- speed reduction from 60 km/h to 50 km/h, reducing likelihood and severity level of crashes.
- midblock blister islands to deter speeding behaviour, reducing the likelihood and severity of crashes.
- installation of green textured surface at intersections and blister islands is proposed to enhance the visibility and recognition of bicycle lanes to reduce the chance of conflict between bicycles and other road users, including vehicles and pedestrians.
- separated bike lanes, promoting a safer active travel environment.
- upgrading the existing pedestrian crossing to a wombat crossing for safer access to Central Square Shopping Centre



Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts, concerns and ideas on the concept design in November and December 2021. All feedback has been collated and a summary of what we heard, along with next steps for Merton Street is presented below.

The community engagement process

Due to COVID 19 social gathering restrictions, community consultation was restricted to

- **an online survey** on the project's website on Participate Hobsons Bay
- **email and phone calls** to share feedback

These community engagement opportunities were primarily shared via Council's digital platforms.



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Who got involved?

The project page on Participate Hobsons Bay received 781 site visits from 679 individual visitors during the engagement period from 30 November to 23 December 2021. We received 125 survey submissions over this time. Most respondents (117/125) are residents of Altona Meadows.

What we heard

The community were asked to share their level of support for the proposed treatments, the survey results are;

- Speed reduction along entire length of Merton Street from 60km/hr to 50km/hr. All 125 survey respondents answered this question with 38% (47/125) selecting strongly unsupportive and 25% (31/125) selecting strongly supportive.
- Midblock blister islands. 124 survey respondents answered this question with 26% (32/124) selecting strongly unsupportive and 19% (23/124) selecting strongly supportive.
- Installation of green textured bike lane marking at intersections. All 125 survey respondents answered this question with 16% (20/125) selecting strongly unsupportive and 25% (31/125) selecting strongly supportive.
- Installation of separated bike lanes. 123 survey respondents answered this question with 11% (14/123) selecting strongly unsupportive and 24% (30/123) selecting strongly supportive.
- Upgrading of existing pedestrian crossing at central square to a raised wombat pedestrian crossing. 124 survey respondents answered this question with 8% (10/124) selecting strongly unsupportive and 41% (51/124) selecting strongly supportive.

When asked if participants had any additional comments, or if we have missed anything regarding Merton Street traffic issues the top seven response were:

- shared concerns for the necessity and effectiveness of the proposed traffic treatments.
- desire for safer pedestrian crossings from Central Square shopping centre across Merton Street,
- for Council to explore the possibility of installing lights on Merton Street near the Central Square Shopping Centre. Concern was also raised for the condition of the road,
- low visibility from the side streets whilst entering Merton Street and



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- loss of on road parking spaces.
- Requests for fixed speed cameras or more police presence to hinder speeding were made by some survey respondents.

How your feedback has changed the proposed concept design

Thank you to all community members who got involved and shared valuable feedback. Council has considered all suggestions, comments and concerns alongside other relevant planning, construction, and project budget considerations.

In addressing other comments regarding Merton Street, Council's response to this feedback is

Speed reduction along entire length of Merton Street from 60km/hr to 50km/hr

Further consultation and survey will be undertaken with the residents abutting Merton Street that outlines the safety benefits and the modest effect of speed limit in terms of delays.

Shared community concerns for the necessity and effectiveness of the proposed traffic treatments.

The proposed treatments align with road safety standards and have been approved by the Department of Transport. The crash history is significant when compared across the municipality and the state.

Desire for safer pedestrian crossings from Central Square shopping centre across Merton Street

There is an upgraded crossing at Merton Street mid-block at the existing zebra crossing. Other improvements to facilitate pedestrians crossing Merton Street will be referred to future Capital Works Programs.

For Council to explore the possibility of installing lights on Merton Street near the Central Square Shopping Centre.

Council will continue to advocate to the Department of Transport for improvements to be undertaken at the intersection.

Concerns were also raised for the condition of the road

Maintenance to be undertaken where possible with the project delivery.

Low visibility from the side streets whilst entering Merton Street

Visibility at side roads will be assessed. The project does involve some elements that will improve visibility and safety at side roads (i.e. Nelson Street / Trafalgar Avenue).



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Loss of on road parking spaces.

The loss of parking is required to ensure effectiveness of blister treatments however parking demands are generally low. Direct engagement will occur with residents that have raised concerns.

Requests for fixed speed cameras or more police presence to hinder speeding were made by some survey respondents.

This matter will be forwarded to Department of Justice for consideration.

Next Steps

A final concept plan will be shared with the community for information via Council's Participate webpage. If you have any questions regarding the Merton Street traffic treatments please email projects@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au



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