



Right: Artist's impression of Thompson Road bridge, with Illawong Court to the right.

Patterson Lakes Community Update

New walking and cycling path

The \$759 million Peninsula Link project is a 27 kilometre freeway connection between EastLink at Carrum Downs and the Mornington Peninsula Freeway at Mount Martha.

A new 25 kilometre walking and cycling path known as the Peninsula Link Trail is an important component of the project. The path will be a significant addition to the Kingston, Frankston and Mornington Peninsula walking and cycling networks.

The Peninsula Link Trail begins at Patterson Lakes and ends at the Mt Eliza Regional Park in Moorooduc. The route takes in wetlands, parklands and natural bushlands. Highlights of the route include:

- Connection to the Dandenong Creek Trail at Patterson River
- New pedestrian bridge at Thompson Road, Patterson Lakes
- New pedestrian bridge over the Frankston Freeway at Seaford
- Connection to the Baxter Trail to take users into central Frankston
- New pedestrian bridge over Peninsula Link near Willow Road, Frankston.

The Peninsula Link contract has been awarded to Southern Way. Southern Way is supported by Abigroup Contractors which is designing and constructing the freeway, and

Conneq, which will operate and maintain the freeway for 25 years. The Abigroup and Conneq teams have an excellent track record with well established and proven methods for the safe delivery of major infrastructure.

Community feedback

The Peninsula Link project team would like to thank the Patterson Lakes community for attending the public information display held on Wednesday 2 March 2011 at the Patterson Lakes Community Centre. More than 130 people came along to learn more about the project and to view the interactive 4D model showing the walking and cycling path route and its design features.

Representatives of Southern Way, Abigroup, Kingston City Council, Linking Melbourne Authority, as well as specialist consultants were on hand to answer questions, listen to feedback and, where possible, resolve concerns expressed by residents.

This information sheet answers some of the more common questions raised on the night. You can also find more information on the project website (www.peninsulalink.com.au), by dropping into the Info Hub in Frankston (see back page for details), or by calling our 24-hour community information line on 1300 453 035.



Path alignment

The route of the Peninsula Link Trail has been developed in consultation with a range of interested parties including local councils, the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, VicRoads and special interest groups such as Bicycle Victoria. Nearby residents and the local environmental community have also had a say in the development of the route.

The path will be three metres wide and in a similar colour to the existing path on Old Wells Road, Patterson Lakes. It will mostly be a concrete path with sections of asphalt further south in areas like the Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands. A new wire fence will be installed between the path and the freeway which meets the VicRoads requirements for fencing.

The path width is suitable for pedestrians, cyclists and motorised scooters used by the disabled and elderly.

Why is the path crossing the road on Old Wells Road (near Kurrawa Crescent)?

The new path has been positioned to best utilise the existing council shared use path between each end of Kurrawa Crescent. There is an existing section of relatively wide grassed road reserve on the western side of Old Wells Road, south of Kurrawa Crescent, that provides plenty of space to develop the path compared with the eastern side of Old Wells Road which has limited space. In addition, developing the path along the eastern side would have required the removal of stands of Banksia trees.

Given the space limitations on the eastern side and our commitment to retain as much existing vegetation as possible to preserve the visual amenity of the area, it was logical to cross Old Wells Road at this point. Our design has been independently reviewed and meets all the safety standards for this area. A further road safety audit will be conducted before the path opens to users.

Nearby residents and the local environmental community have also had a say in the development of the route.

Maintenance

The Peninsula Link walking and cycling path through Patterson Lakes will be maintained by Kingston City Council. During the project, should you have any concerns you can contact Abigroup on our 24-hour information line. To provide feedback regarding council services, or to lodge a service request relating to Council-controlled infrastructure, please email info@kingston.vic.gov.au. You can also contact the council on 1300 653 356.

Environmental management

Through Patterson Lakes and Seafood, the path predominantly follows established foot and cycle routes and is located on the edge of wetlands to avoid sensitive flora and disturbing animals within their natural environment. Special controls will also apply during construction such as avoiding any works during the bird migratory season.

Some sections of the path adjacent to the freeway are heavily vegetated and existing trees are to be retained and a meandering path alignment adopted where possible. We have done a lot of research about traffic noise and our expert consultants confirm that the removal of trees does not result in a significant increase in traffic noise. We recognise that these trees act as a buffer and visual screen against the freeway for you, which is why we will retain as many trees as possible.

Lighting on path and Thompson Road bridge

As the majority of the Peninsula Link path through Patterson Lakes is through residential areas where there is existing street lighting, no additional lighting will be installed.

Urban and landscape design

In response to community concerns about the changes to Legana and Illawong courts as part of the works, additional landscaping including massed low shrub planting and low fencing between the path and the local road for way finding is being provided. These measures will visually enhance the path and encourage path users to stay on the trail, for example, to discourage access to Legana Court and Illawong Court.

Height and appearance of Thompson Road pedestrian bridge

The new pedestrian bridge establishes a much needed, high quality off-road connection across busy Thompson Road. In addition, access to Thompson Road has been made safer for local residents on both sides of the road. Construction of the bridge is expected to commence in mid to late 2011. Abigroup will ensure residents are kept informed of the works program.

Overshadowing and overlooking

During the bridge design phase, we conducted an overshadowing and overlooking assessment so that it complies with Road Safety Act guidelines and our project requirements to protect privacy. Following discussion with residents adjacent to the Thompson Road pedestrian bridge, the bridge ramps have been relocated closer to Thompson Road and cladding on the stair access and main has been raised to remove any likelihood of overlooking and overshadowing.



Above: Artist's impression of the Patterson Lakes shared use path bridge.

Privacy and security

While safety and security are common concerns for residents when paths are in their planning phase, evidence shows that well planned paths can actually help to reduce crime, vandalism, dumping and anti-social behavior as the presence of trail users deters this behavior through passive surveillance. Bollards and other traffic measures will be installed where the path intersects with major roads to reduce the likelihood of motorcycles gaining access to the path. In response to concerns about the repositioning of the freeway protection fence along Legana and Illawong courts, low fencing and landscaping will be provided to discourage users from straying onto the local roads.

Fencing

Linking Melbourne Authority, Southern Way, Abigroup and Kingston City Council have discussed the best solutions for addressing safety and security concerns of people residing in courts adjacent to the path. Security fences are to be provided between the path and freeway where the path encroaches on the Mornington Peninsula Freeway and other VicRoads boundaries. Although several residents requested higher fencing on both sides, we need to consider path users who would be locked into a 'tunnel effect' when they are riding or walking through. Instead, a low fence will be installed at specific locations between the path and the local road to direct path users and to discourage access onto local streets.

Toilet and drinking water facilities

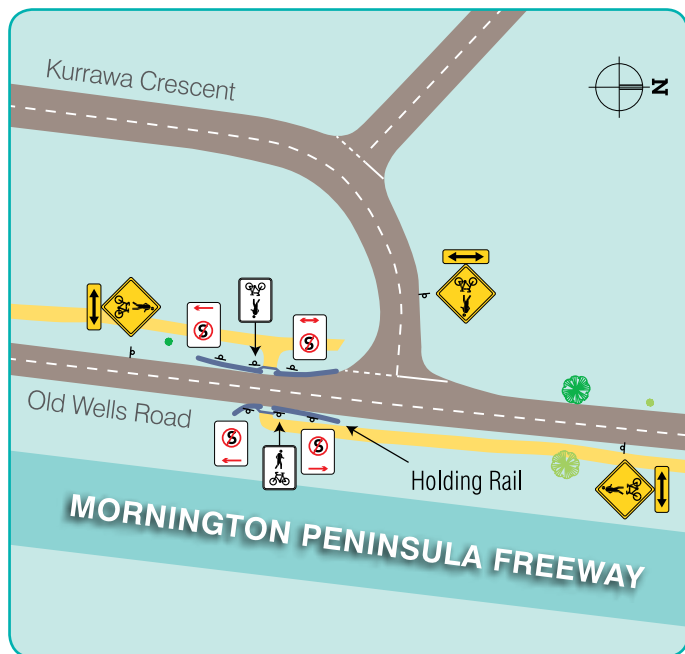
The Peninsula Link Trail route is close to existing public conveniences, e.g. shopping centres and council parks. Most shared path users start out prepared. There are many similar paths around Melbourne and users generally don't expect there to be toilet facilities, so they plan ahead. Council will closely monitor the path in terms of accessibility to public facilities.

Parking

We find that paths such as the Peninsula Link Trail generally attract locals who gain access by foot or bicycle. For this reason, car parks are rarely built adjacent to paths. However, Kingston City Council has noted community concerns and will monitor vehicle parking in the courts and on Old Wells Road.



Above: A dashed centre line is to be painted along the length of the path to separate cyclists travelling in opposite directions.



Left: Figure 1 – This diagram is an example of the General Crossing Treatment as described below left.

Timing of works

Illawong Court – Construction of this section is scheduled to commence in late June 2011 and will take approximately 18 to 20 weeks to complete.

Legana Court – Construction of this section is scheduled to commence in early June 2011 and will take approximately 12 to 14 weeks to complete.

Thompson Road pedestrian bridge will take around six to nine months to construct. Works are expected to start in late 2011 with the bridge to be operational by mid 2012.

Old Wells Road – The section of path between Eel Race Drain and Kurrawa Crescent is under construction and is expected to be operational by the end of May 2011. Construction of the section of path north of Kurrawa Crescent will commence mid 2011.

Communication

Southern Way and Abigroup will keep the community well informed of works. If any member of the Patterson Lakes community was unable to attend the information session on 2 March 2011 and would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Information is provided in the following ways:

- 24-hour community information line: 1300 453 035
- Community email address: contact@peninsulalink.com.au
- Peninsula Link Info Hub (see details below)
- Open days
- Staffed public displays
- Information brochures
- Community Information Sessions
- Presentations to local groups.

Traffic management – Old Wells Road

A permanent speed reduction, from 80km/h to 60km/h will apply adjacent to the crossing zone on Old Wells Road near Kurrawa Crescent in Patterson Lakes. This arrangement will create sufficient sight distance to the crossing point for motorists.

A general crossing treatment will be used at the pedestrian crossing. General crossing treatments involve paths effectively terminating when intersecting with a road and then recommencing on the opposite side of the road (refer Figure 1 above). At a general crossing, motorists have priority over path users. Path users must give way to vehicles and only cross the road when there is an acceptable gap in the traffic flow.

General crossing treatments are suitable for roads like Old Wells Road that carry less than 3000 vehicles per day and that have adequate sight distances to enable path users to choose a suitable gap in the traffic and for motorists to know that there is a path crossing ahead.

Directional signage

The scope of signage proposed for the path includes warning signs, regulatory signs, directional signage and interpretive signage.

A dashed centre line is to be painted along the length of the path, and a solid line around corners to assist in separating cyclists travelling in opposite directions.

In order to protect wildlife, signs directing walkers to ensure their dogs are kept on leashes will be installed through the Seaford Wetlands section of the path.



Contact Details



If you require the assistance of an interpreter please phone (03) 9280 0753

Phone 1300 453 035
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