Work to transform the Ferrars Street Education and Community Precinct is well underway. The precinct will include a new primary school, community facilities, community park and upgraded streetscapes in the Montague precinct of Fishermans Bend.

The new South Melbourne Ferrars Street Primary School (interim name) with community facilities will open in 2018 and stimulate the area to become a well-connected mixed use precinct supporting residents, businesses, and education and community services.

Demolition of an industrial office building is now complete at 2-4 Buckhurst Street to pave the way for the first new park in Fishermans Bend. Montague Community Park (interim name) will provide much needed open space for the community, and will open during 2018.

To make sure the precinct is safe and accessible for all, Council proposes to carry out permanent road closures, as included in the streetscape design endorsed in April 2017, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989. We have already consulted broadly about some of these changes, and have received high quality input from local businesses and residents.

We’ve identified an opportunity to transform the northern half of Railway Place into a pedestrian-only area to provide easy access between the school and the new Route 96 tram stop. Read on to find out more about the proposed changes to Railway Place and opportunities to provide feedback.
Other streetscape changes

On 5 April 2017 Council endorsed a revised precinct streetscape design and park concept design. This followed community consultation during 2016 and 2017 on the streetscape design and proposed road closures. The streetscape design will provide safe access to the precinct as it evolves and will contribute to the development of Montague Community Park (interim name), to provide approximately 8,600m² of open space for the growing community.

The streetscape design was informed by feedback and suggestions from local residents and businesses about the impact of removing on-street parking in the area.

The key features of the streetscape design are:

- A school zone with a lower 40 km/h speed limit at peak times when children are travelling to and from school.
- Enhanced drop-off zones spread around the precinct with 26 time-limited parking spaces, to allow traffic to enter, drop-off/pick-up and disperse during the morning and afternoon.
- New bus zone on Kerr Street, providing parking for buses servicing the new school.
- Pedestrian crossings at the intersection of Ferrars Street and Buckhurst Street and across Railway Place to provide safer pedestrian access.
- Creating 20 angle parking spaces on the school side of Douglas Street for short term ticket parking on weekdays, for people visiting residents and businesses in the area.
- A new loading zone on Maidan Street for dropping off or picking up goods or passengers.
- Proposed permanent road closures of Ferrars Street (between Douglas Street and Gladstone Street) and Gladstone Street (between Kerr Street and Ferrars Street) and narrowing Kerr Street to expand the size of Montague Community Park. Vehicle access to existing properties at off-street car parks will be maintained.

Update on Montague Community Park (interim name)

Council is partnering with the Victorian Government to transform the former industrial site of 2-4 Buckhurst Street into the new Montague Community Park (interim name) to provide much needed open space in Fishermans Bend. In August 2017, Council released the concept design for the park which includes a paved entrance area, landscaping, terraced areas and places for people to relax under shady trees. Demolition of the industrial building at the site was completed in late August 2017. Council plans to issue a tender over the coming months to construct phase one of the park, to open during the 2018 school year. The park will then be further developed in consultation with the community about additional facilities such as a playground or outdoor fitness equipment.

Next steps

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1989, Council is giving notice of:

- The permanent closure of Railway Place between the southern boundary of South Melbourne Ferrars Street Primary School (interim name) and City Road.
- The permanent closure of Ferrars Street (between Douglas Street and Gladstone Street) and Gladstone Street (between Kerr Street and Ferrars Street) and narrowing Kerr Street to expand the size of Montague Community Park (interim name).
- Access for emergency services and vehicle access to existing properties at off-street car parks will be maintained.

Changes to Railway Place

Railway Place is currently a one way cobblestone street linking Douglas Street to City Road. It is situated between South Melbourne Ferrars Street Primary School and the Route 96 tram embankment, and is mainly used for all day paid parking managed by private parking operators.

To complement other streetscape works aimed at making the precinct well-connected and safe for the whole community, Council plans to permanently close Railway Place between Douglas Street and the southern boundary of South Melbourne Ferrars Street Primary School (interim name). This will improve pedestrian connections for school children and our current and future communities from the new Route 96 tram stop into the precinct. It will also provide extra pedestrian space adjoining the school forecourt.

Vehicle access will be maintained to the southern section of Railway Place between South Melbourne Ferrars Street Primary School (interim name) and City Road.

The southern section of Railway Place will become a no-through road with a turnaround area, providing two way-access left in and out from City Road. There will be no standing and no parking on the southern section of Railway Place.

The map below shows the proposed changes to Railway Place.

Areas
- South Melbourne Ferrars Street
- School zone
- 40 km/h speed limit
- Proposed road closure
- Driveway to private property
- Zebra crossing

Proposed parking arrangements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
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<tr>
<td>Visitor parking</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus parking</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Loading zones</td>
<td>No stopping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of car spaces</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of loading zone spaces</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of disabled spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tram stop</td>
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Upgrades
- PTV works: Tram stop upgrade
- VicRoads works: Intersection upgrade