



Item 7.2 Joint Letter – Requesting Attention and Improvements for a more Sustainable Streetscape on Alma Road, St Kilda.

A Joint Letter containing 8 signatures was received from local residents.

The Joint Letter states the following:-

Alma Road has been in a state of shock, under siege for the better part of the last 3-4 years during the progressive demolition, and subsequent overdevelopment on the south side, from 25-39 Alma Road, St Kilda.

Concerns and Requests.

COPP's statutory strategies, including polices and plans, refer to streets designed for people, investment in walking and bike riding infrastructure, implementation of Slow Speed Local Area (SSLA), and finally, sustainability with the implementation of street tree planting and ongoing investment in street scape improvement.

We live in Alma Road west, between St Kilda Road and Chapel Street. This portion of Alma Road, once a plethora of Victorian buildings, has for a long time been exposed to excessive demolitions, high density developments and large volumes of vehicular traffic. We are currently emerging from a recent chapter of this nature. Residents have tolerated a sustained period of 3-4 years, enduring significant disruption and development.

On the south side of Alma Road, we now have two large, almost completed developments, which straddle 25-39 Alma Road. This envelope of land abuts Alma Road, which has up to four lanes of vehicular traffic, with its incumbent noise, exhaust fumes, speeding, u-turning, with particularly excessive car/truck movements, as well as Uber vehicles too.

As a small group of representative residents, on behalf of many others in the street, we would like to press for more local attention and action in support of reclaiming and enhancing Alma Road West, with appropriate action planning in accordance with addressing COPP's strategies, policies, and plans, which are highlighted above and below in bold.

1} Health, welling being and safety:

Streets designed for people, investment in walking and bike riding Infrastructure, implementation of Slow Speeds Local Area (SSLA) and traffic calming treatments to reduce exposure to traffic injury, vehicle emissions and noise.

- We would like to re-in state and enhance the centre median plantings, like those that can be seen in neighbouring Wellington, Inkerman and Mitford streets, St Kilda. Median plantings were included in an Alma Road improvement several years ago, however some were removed prior to the development period, and these should now be replaced with consideration to include more as traffic calming strategies.*
- We ask the COPP to consider further implementation of SSLA strategies to reduce exposure to excessive traffic injury, emissions, and noise. The large junction of Alma Road and St Kilda Road provides poor conditions for pedestrians and cyclists who are forced to negotiate multi lane vehicular traffic, which includes Yarra Trams, with poorly coordinated and inadequately timed pedestrian lights. Our own attempts to liaise with stakeholders at COPP, VICROADS and YARRA TRAMS have been unsuccessful to date.*



2) Sustainability:

Implementing the street tree planting program and ongoing investment in park tress and street scape improvements.

- *We have lost many street trees, planted as part of the COPP implementation plan, several years ago. This is due to the combination of inadequate maintenance of many trees, and the removal of some trees to accommodate the rigors of the development over the past 3-4 years.*
- *We request the reinstatement of street tree planting, including more planting and an improved commitment to maintaining and protecting this over time. We also request further street planting zones on suitable corners where this possible, e.g., corner of Alma Road and Charnwood Crescent. Similar attention has been given to other such zones in the municipality contributing positively to the overall street scape.*

3) Transport and parking:

Move connect and live strategy; increase the range of healthy safe connected and convenient walking and bike riding choices.

- *We ask COPP to consider further consultation with relevant stakeholders towards meeting the VicRoads Design Guidance for bike lanes with green coloured pavement/road surfaces to enhance the safety for bicycles. There is a lot of bicycle movement on Alma Road. There have been several unfortunate accidents, including 'door jamming'. Regardless of plans for the Inkerman Safe Travel Corridor, as well as the broader 'Lets Ride Melbourne' program, Alma Road west urgently needs a designated green riding zone at this busy dangerous end of the street.*

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Petition; and
2. Notes that Officers will provide a response to the Petition at the 3 November Council meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil