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Future Melbourne Committee Meeting No. 17, 18 July 2017
Council Meeting Room, Level 2, Town Hall Administration Building
Agenda Item 6.4 Southbank Boulevard and Dodds Street Draft Concept Plan

Submission to Future Melbourne Committee

Southbank Residents Association commends Council on this momentous project and are very pleased to see the Transform Southbank Boulevard project reach the third and final consultation phase. We have been involved in the consultation on this project since 2005 and at times wondered if it would ever come to fruition. The allocation of the funds in the 2017/18 budget for the commencement of Stage 1 is reassuring and we look forward to the commencement of the works.

Last week our committee was fortunate to receive a brief by Steve Perumal, Senior Open Space Planner, on the draft concept plan. We were pleased with the detail and consideration his team were able to put into this and it was a vast improvement on the first round of renders. Our committee are excited with the plan for Southbank Boulevard and the benefits to Southbank residents, workers and visitors at the completion of each stage.

Of particular note, it was satisfying to see that a space for children's play equipment, dog owners and a green park were able to be included. We knew these were highly desired outcomes of the community. We understand such a significant project can never hope to please everyone and it can be a challenge to juggle the requirements from a broad range of stakeholders, but congratulations must go to Steve's team for achieving such a broad-ranging scope.

Speaking of stakeholders, we are particularly pleased that the concerns of bicycles users were given due consideration through consultation with Melbourne Bicycle Users Group (Melbourne BUG). This was one of our recommendations to Council in our last submission and we enjoyed collaborating with BUG and we're pleased to see their influence in the final design.

Since the press release by the CoM last week, we have promoted this project on our social media channels and by all accounts it has received a largely positive response. We will continue to update our members and the wider community on the progress.



As this Council is acutely aware, Southbank is in much need of public open space, and particularly green open space. While Southbank falls well short of Council's own benchmark we need to be mindful that owing to the population growth of Southbank - confirmed in the 2016 Census results - these open space gains from this Southbank Boulevard project will be short lived. Council must continue to look at ways to at least attempt to meet its open space benchmark.

SRA supports this motion and trust all Councillors will too. We thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this review.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Penna", written over a horizontal line.

Tony Penna
President
Southbank Residents Association