

Public Transport Users Association

Submission on Minerva Road Blackspot pedestrian safety upgrades

City of Greater Geelong

26th October 2023



**PUBLIC TRANSPORT
USERS ASSOCIATION**

The Geelong Branch of the Public Transport Users Association (PTUA) supports the proposed improvements to Minerva Road and Church Street in Herne Hill, including road enhancements, footpaths, and pedestrian crossings. This area, known for its mix of shops, cafes, and schools, has long had pedestrian safety problems. It's heartening to see the city's commitment to address these problems, by successfully applying for Black Spot Funding.

Prioritising pedestrian infrastructure over cars not only improves the well-being of the local community but also brings about a number of associated benefits for Geelong as a whole. Providing safer and more appealing walkways for pedestrians helps encourage residents to consider active and public transport over personal car use. That shift in transport habits has an important impact on our city's overall quality of life, as well as its environmental sustainability.

In particular, the construction of two raised wombat crossings on Minerva Road will improve pedestrian safety. Dedicated crossings adjacent to bus stops are a key improvement, ensuring a safer experience for bus users when crossing the road to embark or disembark. The crossings will also increase the accessibility of local stores for both residents and bus passengers.

Given the limited space between property boundaries and the curb, we urge the city to explore design options that can accommodate additional space within the road corridor for bus shelter installation at the Murphy Ave/Minerva Rd bus stop. The inclusion of shelters at that location would help attract people to travel by bus to North Shore Station and also be of great benefit to local school students.

The improvements will contribute to a safer, more convenient, and welcoming environment for all pedestrians and public transport users in the area.