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## **Submission to Future Melbourne Committee**

City of Melbourne, Melbourne Town Hall,  
07 May 2024, 5.30pm – Meeting No.76  
Agenda Item FMC 6.4: City Road Masterplan Update

SRA has had a keen interest, and active involvement, in this project since City of Melbourne community consultation started in February 2014. This project was supposed to be completed by 2023. It is one year late and very little of significance has been achieved in that time. In the most part, the piecemeal components which have been completed has come about through SRA expressing their dissatisfaction at annual budget presentations which prompted the support of Cr Leppert for additional supplements. The Southbank community is most grateful to Cr Leppert for his understanding of the importance of this project to the Southbank community and his ongoing support over that time.

However, we are perplexed with this agenda item, insofar that it is described as an update, yet it is only providing details on one specific part of the project, being Action 2 – Reimagine Kings Way undercroft as a community space. In the overall scheme of things, in comparison to the complexities of the undercroft reimagining, the other items should be significantly less complex to implement, yet they seem to be attracting no attention. Why have none of the other aspects of the plan been delivered?

Firstly, the officers claim Action 6 – Expand the bicycle network within Southbank as complete. While most of the proposed Southbank network is indeed complete the proposed section on City Road from Balston Street to Clarendon Street has not been completed. How do council officers not know this? Is there a reason why they have declared it complete without any further updates of design changes to the community?

Regarding the proposal for the Reimagining of Kings Way undercroft, which is a significant component of the plan, we appreciate the efforts of City of Melbourne officers in negotiating with all the parties that have an interest in this space. We are particularly impressed that the City of Melbourne has been able to negotiate a 40-year lease. Yet, we can't understand why it took so long into the project for the officers to realise the tenure on the land was inadequate. These negotiations should have started 10 years ago and then we might have been so much further into the development of this space.

We are pleased that Key Issue No 7 specifically mentions traffic noise. The noise from the cars on Kingsway overpass, as they go over the expansion/contraction joints is a significant, if not oppressive, distraction. The installation of acoustic panelling is a priority if the community is to feel the space is welcoming.



The same thought should also apply in regard to the impact of air pollution from cars above and at ground level. Similarly, the dust pollution from the overpass released by vibration of the structure caused by the traffic is a factor that should be researched.

The draft concept drawings suggest a diverse range of potential activities. SRA looks forward to the opportunity to participate in consultations. No doubt the City of Melbourne will evaluate the effectiveness of the various sub-parks along Southbank Boulevard, each with their own design features. In particular, the amazing success of the adventure playground, not only in usage, but also in its capacity as a meeting place for young families and a safe place for women due to the presence of families means that if such an element was included in the design of the Undercroft, it will greatly facilitate community engagement.

The SRA notes that the project is currently unfunded and that community engagement could support securing funding sources. We have already independently discussed this with our local member of state parliament, Nina Taylor. The SRA will fully support engaging with the community.

The SRA supports this recommendation to the FMC, but desire further updates and a timeline on the other aspects of the City Road masterplan.

Regards

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

Tony Penna  
President  
Southbank Residents Association