



Unley Bicycle User Group

City of Unley, South Australia

Wilberforce Walk Stage 4 Walking and Cycling Improvements - Community Consultation

Please accept this submission from the committee and members of the Unley BUG. This submission is prepared by the Unley BUG Committee on behalf of our 480+ current members to ensure the interests of people who cycle, walk and use mobility aids in, to and through our City are met in the above stated project.

Unley BUG is very excited to see Stage 4 of the Wilberforce Walk project put forward. At a big picture level, this one project proposes to connect the excellent-but-isolated Wilberforce Walk shared use path with the wider Unley cycling network via the Marino Rocks Greenway. We are very supportive of the project overall, but would like to make the following comments and suggestions to assist in making this project the best it can be.

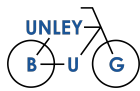
The numbers mentioned below correspond to the legends on the City of Unley's Wilberforce Walk Stage 4 Concept Design Plans v3/v4.

Leah St Junction (1,2)

The raised wombat crossing of Leah St (1) and the raised continuous footpath over the Nichols St junction (2) are both very welcome improvements that will serve to slow down motor vehicle traffic and make the environment safer for people walking and cycling.

However, the high volumes of motor vehicle traffic on Leah St make this section of the route the most challenging to transform into a safe, convenient and accessible place to walk and cycle. We see the particular challenges being:

- Making right turn movements from Nichols St to Leah St may be difficult due to the high volumes of traffic.
 - The speed bump to the south of this junction does not always function to slow down vehicles, particularly larger ones which can drive across without slowing.
 - We would like council to consider means of slowing down vehicles approaching from the south, including for example replacing this speed bump with a larger (yet still bus-compatible) version or even potentially raising the entire intersection from Wilberforce Walk to Nichols St.
- Turning into Wilberforce Walk is currently a difficult exercise for cyclists due to the configuration of kerb and fencing.
 - The kerb ramp has a sharp 'back' and narrow exit which is difficult to navigate on a bike, especially the longer cargo bikes which are increasingly popular with families. Furthermore, cyclists are likely to be approaching this ramp at a relatively high speed due to the need to fit in with vehicle traffic on busy Leah St, making the turn even more difficult.
 - While we are aware that this section of Wilberforce Walk itself is part of a future project (Stage 3), we feel that minor modifications to the entry to the walk as part of this project would significantly improve accessibility. We suggest a realignment of the fence, street sign and end of path to better align with the proposed new crossing.

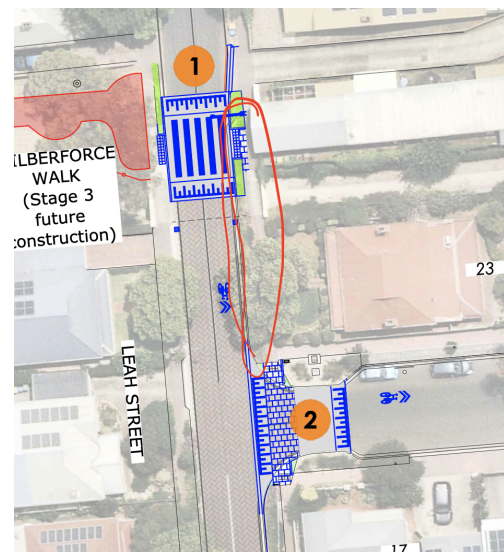


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- The footpath on the eastern side of Leah street is very narrow and as such difficult to traverse for people walking and wheeling. While visiting the site as part of the preparation of this submission, members of the Unley BUG committee witnessed a member of the public on a mobility scooter exit Wilberforce Walk and travel to Nichols St on the busy road, presumably because the footpath was too narrow.

We urge council to reconsider a widening of the footpath surface in this location (see markup below) to improve accessibility for people with mobility aids along with cyclists who do not feel comfortable with navigating this intersection on the road.



Nichols St West Traffic Improvements (3a, 3b, 4, 5a, 5b)

We are supportive of these improvements which build on designs currently working well in practice elsewhere in Unley.

Nichols St / Ethel St Intersection (6a, 6b)

The proposed design appears to significantly improve what is currently a dangerous intersection to navigate on foot. Raising the footpaths across Ethel St will slow down car traffic that we have observed does not always give way at this intersection. The new crossings north-south are also much more useable than the current crossings as they will shorten the distance required to cross the road on foot.



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Nichols St East Traffic Improvements (6c)

While we would ideally see speed bumps installed in this location to be consistent with Nichols St West, we understand that the resultant impact to car parking may not be desirable in this location near the busy Unley Swimming Centre

Marino Rocks Greenway Intersection (7a, 7b)

We suggest signage is installed at this intersection to make people aware that there is now a continuous, relatively safe route available. For example, "Anzac Hwy via Wilberforce Walk".

We welcome the bicycle bypass proposed for left-turning cyclists onto Nichols St. However, we wish council to consider the radius of the kerb/kerb ramp in this location to ensure it is not too sharp and still navigable to people on longer cargo bikes.

Overall, we are pleased with the improvements proposed as part of this project and believe they will significantly enhance the connectivity and safety of Unley's walking and cycling network.

Regards,

Daniel Grilli

Spokesperson

Unley Bicycle User Group

0437 323 379

ubug.secretary@gmail.com.au