



Roads & Transport

Request of Government

We are seeking

- Improved bus network
- Progress on the Caulfield to Rowville Trackless Rapid Transit
- Wellington Road upgrade
- Dorset Road extension / Napoleon Road upgrade
- Tram extension – Route 75



Background

Bus Network Improvements

For many Knox residents, buses are not a choice but a necessity. Yet across Knox's neighbourhoods, bus services are falling well short of community needs, leaving residents without reliable, frequent, or practical connections to jobs, education, healthcare, and essential services.

Knox City Council has identified eight practical high-impact improvements in need of funding:

- Bayswater FlexiRide Service (The Baysie Shuttle)
- Stud Park to Bayswater Station via Henderson Road and Scoresby Road bus service
- Route 745 realignment and conversion to FlexiRide route
- Route 757 realignment and conversion to FlexiRide route
- Stud Road dedicated bus lane improvements
- Burwood Highway and Cathies Lane intersection upgrade
- Stud Road and Rosa Street, Rowville pedestrian improvement
- Scoresby Road and Kent Street, Ferntree Gully pedestrian improvement

They are practical, deliverable solutions that would make an immediate difference to people's lives. Knox City Council calls on the State Government to act on these eight improvements, ensuring that every Knox resident has access to the reliable and connected public transport they deserve.

Trackless Rapid Transit (Caulfield to Rowville)

The Caulfield to Rowville Trackless Rapid Transit Project represents a transformative opportunity for Melbourne's south-eastern economic corridor, promising improved access to jobs and services, reduced travel times, less congestion, and greener travel options for thousands of residents.

In recognition of its significance, the Federal Government committed \$6 million to support the development of a business case, announced in the October 2022-23 Federal Budget. Despite this investment, the Department of Transport and Planning has provided no meaningful update on progress for years, leaving communities, businesses, and commuters in the dark.

We are calling on the Department of Transport and Planning to complete and publicly release the business case without further delay.

Wellington Road Upgrade

Wellington Road, spanning from Napoleon Road, Lysterfield to Berwick Road, Narre Warren East, is a critical east-west corridor serving Knox and its surrounding municipalities. Extensive planning work including traffic modelling, social studies, and environmental investigations was undertaken to assess impacts, develop design options, and confirm costs. This rigorous process culminated in a completed Business Case, finalised in mid-2022 and formally submitted to the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

This project would deliver significant safety improvements and congestion relief to one of Melbourne's fastest-growing regions.

We are calling on government to commit to this project and fund the full duplication of Wellington Road delivering the safer, more connected corridor that communities across Knox and beyond urgently need.

Dorset Road Extension / Napoleon Road Upgrade

Dorset Road is a 13 km primary arterial road providing critical north-south connectivity between Maroondah Highway, Croydon and Burwood Highway, Ferntree Gully. Beyond Burwood Highway, communities in Ferntree Gully, Lysterfield, and Rowville are left to navigate a fragmented network of discontinuous routes, an increasingly inadequate solution for a rapidly growing region.

Knox's population has grown by 16% over the past two decades and is projected to grow a further 20% by 2036. The completed business case confirms what residents already know: the existing road network simply cannot accommodate current or future demand. The Dorset Road Extension, proposed to connect with the Napoleon Road Upgrade, represents a strategically significant solution to improve network flow across Melbourne's outer east.

Knox City Council believes this road must be built. Extending Dorset Road is not a future aspiration, it is an essential piece of infrastructure needed now to keep pace with growth, reduce congestion, and deliver the connected, functional road network that Knox communities deserve.

We call on government to commit to the full delivery of the Dorset Road Extension without further delay.

Tram Route 75 Extension

The case for extending Melbourne's tram network to Knox is not new. It was first identified in the Scoresby Corridor Environmental Effects Statement in 1998, which recommended extending the tram line to Knox City Shopping Centre. More than two decades later, that recommendation remains undelivered. While Route 75 was extended to Vermont South in 2005, the Knox Transit Link bus connection introduced at that time is no substitute for a direct and seamless tram service.

Extending the tram along Burwood Highway to Knox would serve a corridor rich with key destinations including Westfield Knox, Knox Central, Deakin University, Tally Ho Business Park, and numerous schools and retirement villages. Children, older residents, and those without access to a car depend on reliable public transport for their independence and participation in community life.

The case for the tram route has never been stronger. Knox Central is set to accommodate significant future housing growth, bringing thousands of new residents who will need fast, reliable, and sustainable transport connections.

A tram to Knox is not simply about fixing today's gaps: it is essential infrastructure for the growing community that is already taking shape. Knox City Council calls on the State Government to commit to the full extension of the tram to Knox, delivering the connected and liveable city that residents deserve.

Our proposed solution

- Complete and publicly release the Trackless Rapid Transit Project business case.
- Fund the full duplication of Wellington Road.
- Commit to the full delivery of the Dorset Road Extension.
- Commit to the full extension of a tram route to Knox.
- Implement the eight bus improvement projects.

Project contact

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**SPEAKING UP FOR OUR COMMUNITY
TO OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT**

