

OUR COMMUNITY URGENTLY NEEDS FINDON ROAD DUPLICATION AND EXTENSION

Our community urgently needs **Findon Road** to be extended and duplicated **between Epping Road and Plenty Road** to increase road capacity and ease traffic congestion.



What is needed: Extension and duplication

- Council has committed to extending **Findon Road** from **Williamsons Road** to **Plenty Road**, including **funding the bridge** over the rail corridor.
- The next vital stage is to duplicate Findon Road. This requires State Government funding to **duplicate the existing two lane road to a four lane divided road between Plenty Road and Epping Road** with associated pedestrian footpaths and cycling infrastructure.

Findon Road is a planned east-west arterial road that will cross the municipality and provide a link between the Hume. It is essentially a continuation of O'Herns Road. The State Government recently completed the O'Herns Road Interchange at the Hume Freeway as well as the duplication of O'Herns Road through to Epping Road. Freeway in Epping and Plenty Road in South Morang.

The potential duplication and extension of Findon Road provides an important opportunity for road network continuity, a transition to declared arterial road status and relief for east-west traffic movements currently borne by the at-capacity McDonalds Road corridor.

The current alternative is McDonalds Road which is a two way single lane carriageway of a rural standard that carries around 22,000 vehicles a day.¹

McDonalds Road has exceeded its traffic volume capacity as it provides direct access to the Plenty Valley Town Centre and South Morang railway station.

An alternative east-west arterial road is needed that bypasses the Plenty Valley Town Centre to access employment destinations in Epping and regionally in the City of Hume.

It has been identified that the construction of this upgrade should be complete by no later than 2030. (Source: Major Road Investment Opportunities in the city of Whittlesea - a 2021 prospectus, prepared by Hale Strategy Pty Ltd).

CITY OF WHITTLESEA CONGESTION

Our communities are increasingly concerned by traffic congestion. The burden of significant traffic congestion and poor access to public transport means that many residents face a two hour commute to work.²

We continually hear about the health and wellbeing impacts of long and frustrating commute times and social isolation directly from residents, in our community consultations and through our Annual Household Survey.

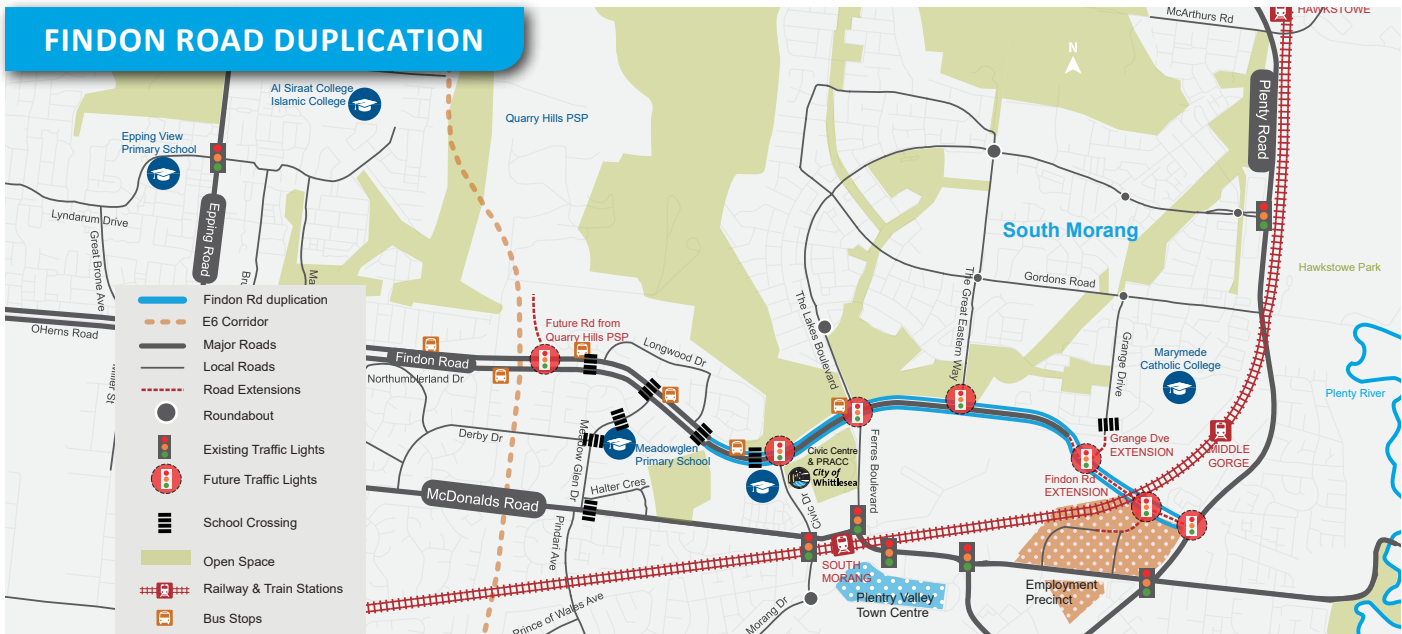
This proposal to duplicate and extend a key section of Findon Road is a vital element towards improving the liveability and wellbeing of our residents.

SERIOUS SAFETY CONCERNS TO ROAD USERS

- **Traffic accidents**
Between 2014-2019, Findon Road had 8 traffic accidents of a serious nature. The road's unsuitability to the high volume of traffic contributed to these accidents.³
- **Traffic congestion**
Findon Road between Epping Road and Williamsons Road carries 17,000 vehicles per day with road users experiencing congestion.⁴ Traffic modeling projections suggest that Findon Road will carry 35,000 vehicles per day by 2031.⁵
- **Unsuitable for large volumes of traffic**
Findon Road from Epping Road to the E6 road reservation is built to a rural standard that cannot safely handle the high traffic volume with poor shoulders, open drains and inadequate pedestrian footpaths. Urban development planned in Quarry Hills Precinct Structure Plan and commercial development in Danaher Drive will only worsen traffic congestion.
- **Unsafe intersections**
Duplication of Findon Road will also require intersection upgrades to traffic lights at:
 - o Grange Drive, upon extension of the road to Findon Road
 - o The Great Eastern Way
 - o Civic Drive, Quarry Hills/E6 and Maserati Drive.

CONGESTION AND TRAFFIC SAFETY RISKS WILL WORSEN WITH GROWTH

The following table shows the population growth out to 2041 for Epping North, Mernda and Doreen.⁶



Projected population increases to areas serviced by Findon Road⁷

	2021	2041	INCREASE IN RESIDENTS	% INCREASE
EPPING NORTH	37,895	57,873	19,978	53%
DOREEN	28,589	31,048	2,459	9%
MERENDA	27,729	34,451	6,722	24%

Given Findon Road currently poses serious safety risks there is an overwhelming need for its duplication in light of projected population growth.

EXTENDING AND DUPLICATING FINDON ROAD WILL:

- Provide a key east-west arterial road that will significantly increase road capacity and reduce traffic congestion
- Reduce the volume of traffic on McDonalds Road and enhance people’s access to facilities and services including the Plenty Valley Town Centre
- Enable the operation of more regular and reliable bus services on Findon Road and McDonalds Road
- Increase road safety by:
 - o improving pedestrian and cyclist safety including safer crossing points
 - o separating oncoming traffic using a central median, thereby reducing the likelihood of head on collisions
 - o providing turning lanes at points beyond intersections, ensuring the safe flow of traffic and reducing the likelihood of rear end collisions
 - o restricting right turns from side roads and driveways to nominated points so that drivers can only turn right into high flow traffic at signalised intersections
 - o unlock \$422 million in travel time savings.

CITY OF WHITTLESEA PLANNING

The City of Whittlesea’s Council Plan identifies seven Future Directions based on an extensive community consultation process. The road improvement requested will directly assist each of these Future Directions, particularly “Accessibility in out and around our city”.⁸ The proposal is included in Council’s Road and Public Transport Plan (2017) and also addresses Council’s Integrated Transport Strategy (2014).⁹ The State Government policies used as a guide include the Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2013-2022 and the Towards Zero 2016-2020 Road Safety Strategy.

¹ City of Whittlesea, *Traffic Counts 2011*.
² City of Whittlesea 2016 Annual Household Survey.
³ VicRoads Crash Statistics, 2013- 2018 [accessed July 2019].
⁴ City of Whittlesea, *Traffic Counts 2017*.
⁵ City of Whittlesea, *Traffic Model – Part 2* (2015).
⁶ Profile.id (2019), City of Whittlesea Population Profile, Usual Residents by precinct. <https://profile.id.com.au/whittlesea/population?WebID=130>, [accessed July 2019].
⁷ forecast.id (2019), *City of Whittlesea Population Forecasts*. Forecast for Epping North. www.forecast.id.com.au/whittlesea [accessed July 2019].
⁸ City of Whittlesea, *Shaping Our Future Community Plan 2030 and Council Plan 2017-2021*.
⁹ City of Whittlesea, *Road and Public Transport Plan* (2017) and *Integrated Transport Strategy* (2014).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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