



KEON PARADE, RESERVOIR

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT

AUGUST 2022



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PROJECT OVERVIEW

We're removing the dangerous and congested level crossing at Keon Parade by building a rail bridge over the road and building a new Keon Park Station.

The modern Keon Park Station will be in a new location on the south side of Keon Parade to improve access to the station, bus connections and to local shops.

Building a rail bridge over Keon Parade means we can remove this level crossing sooner, with less disruption for drivers and public transport passengers during construction.







The additional benefits of the rail bridge design include new local connections for residents and workers from Reservoir and Thomastown, walking and cycling

paths and a new signalised pedestrian crossing across High Street at Hughes Parade.





The Victorian Government is removing six dangerous level crossings and building seven new stations as part of a \$2 billion investment to upgrade the Mernda line.

Major works are due to start in 2023, with the boom gates gone for good and the new Keon Park Station open in 2025.

Project benefits

-  New 750-metre rail bridge to take trains over Keon Parade
-  New modern Keon Park Station south of Keon Parade
-  Improved safety and accessibility for pedestrians, bus and train passengers, cyclists and motorists
-  New local connections, including a new signalised pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Hughes Parade and High Street
-  Ease congestion on the busy M80 Ring Road and 903 SmartBus Route
-  Improved traffic flow and less congestion on roads

Why the Keon Parade level crossing needs to go

			
More than 18,000 vehicles travel through this level crossing each weekday	Boom gates are down for up to 41 minutes during morning peak (7am to 9am)	33,000 passengers use the Mernda line each day	One serious crash and 24 near misses in the last nine years

Consultation

We asked the Reservoir and Thomastown communities to share what they value about the local area and what they want to see delivered as part of the project.

The consultation was open for four weeks from 28 March to 25 April 2022.

We hosted two community information sessions, a pop-up at Keon Park Station and local business doorknocks to inform locals and to seek feedback on the project.

To engage with the local community online, we promoted our engagement through social media, advertising and multiple email updates to project subscribers to encourage participation in the community survey.

The responses have highlighted what's important to the community about the local area and are helping shape the project design.

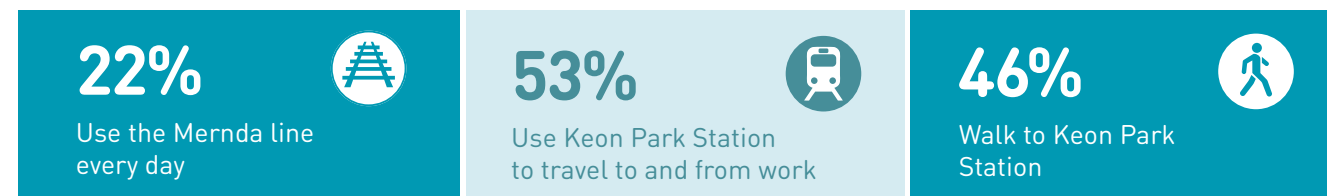
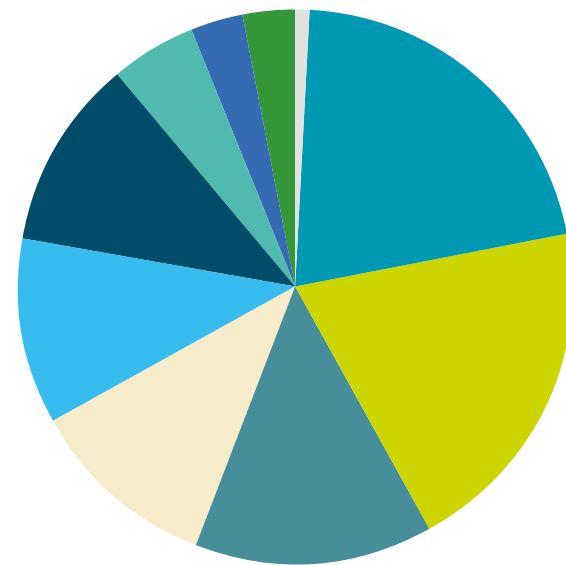
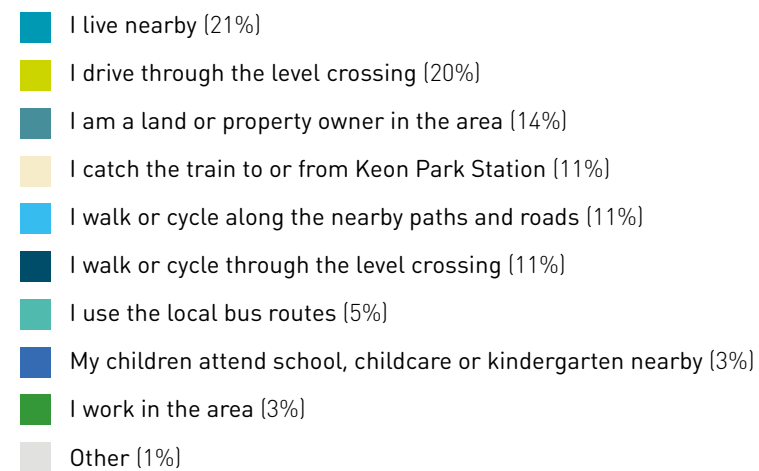
Later this year, we'll release updated designs informed by community input and will provide another opportunity for the community to shape the station precinct design.

66 vision and values surveys submitted	1,400 visits to the Keon Parade page on the Engage Victoria online consultation hub	10,500 properties
28 queries received via the 'Ask Us' function on the Engage Victoria online consultation hub	90 proactive outreach emails sent to local community groups	A face-to-face and online information session and a pop-up at Keon Park Station

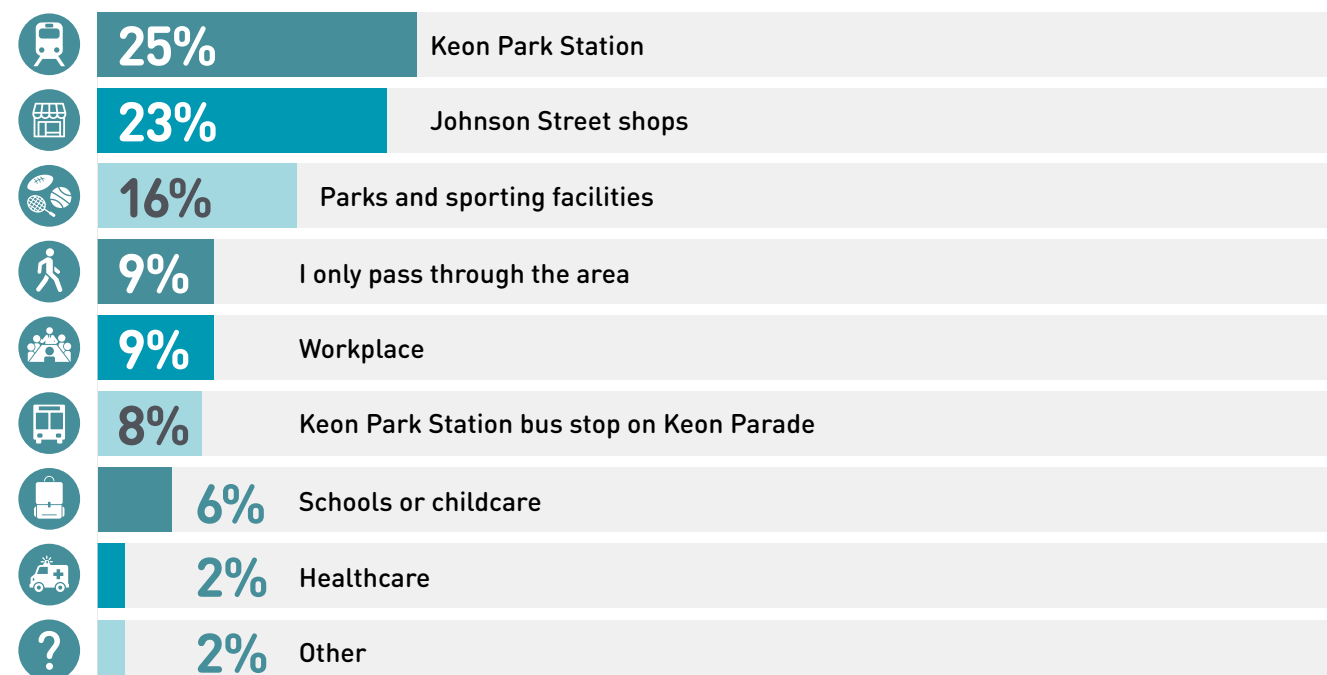
WHAT WE HEARD

We asked you to share your preferences, insights and feedback on the project.

How you use the area



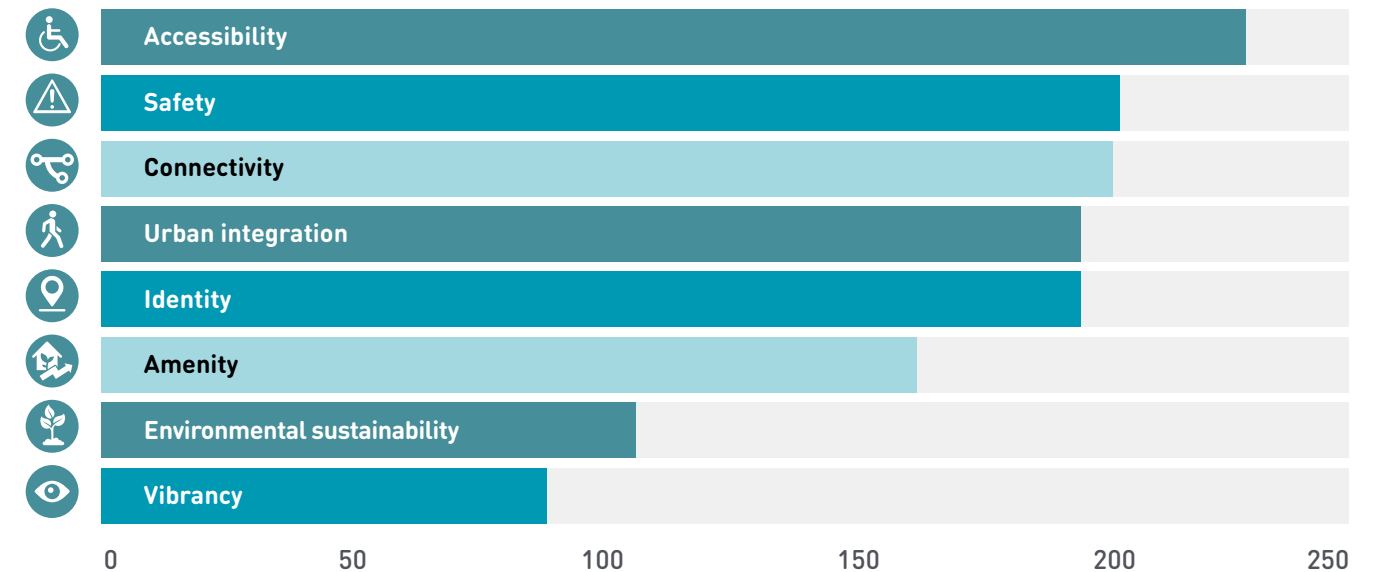
Your major destinations



WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU

From our conversations and surveys, we heard that **accessibility, safety** and **connectivity** were the top three priorities for the Keon Parade Level Crossing Removal Project.

What project features are important to you?



Accessibility

You told us that accessibility was the most important principle to be considered in the design of the Keon Parade Level Crossing Removal Project.

We heard that moving the station to the new location on the south side of Keon Parade will have a positive impact on accessibility, with many of you citing the need for multiple entrances to the new Keon Park Station.

Some of you highlighted the importance of better pedestrian access to local bus stops in and around the station precinct to improve station access and usage.

You also asked for the station design to include accessible features for people with limited mobility as well as prams, luggage or shopping trolleys, with mentions of a dedicated pick-up and drop-off zone and station lifts.

Safety

You would like to see a design that promotes and improves safety in the area, with mentions of passive surveillance, activated spaces and pedestrian safety.

You identified the need for more lighting, better visibility, and CCTV around the station precinct, to make the station area safer for residents and commuters.

We also heard that the current traffic conditions contributed to people feeling unsafe in the area.

Some of you cited dangerous behaviour from both drivers and pedestrians trying to avoid long waiting times on High Street and Keon Parade.

Better connections

Another common theme we heard was that you would like to see better connections between shops, parks and public transport facilities in and around the new station precinct.

Connections such as upgraded walking and cycling paths, safer ways to cross busy roads, and easy access between the station, High Street, and Johnson Street were all highlighted in your survey responses.

We heard that opening up the areas on either side of the rail corridor will connect local businesses to the new precinct, and that attractive landscaping and open space beneath the new rail bridge will result in better connections in Reservoir and Thomastown.

Car parking was also a common theme, with many of you suggesting that you'd like accessible car parking within the station precinct to provide more parking options for commuters.

PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW STATION PRECINCT

We asked what you'd like to see in and around the new Keon Park Station precinct:

Improved safety



'Security is a big issue in the area. Having CCTV cameras within the station and nearby areas would give residents and commuters a better sense of security.'

- Survey respondent

Better station facilities



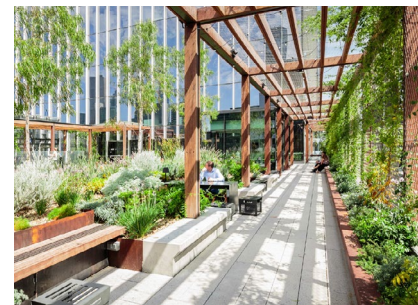
'The new precinct should retain the open nature of the existing station, while providing more cover, added greenery and integration with other facilities.'

- Survey respondent

'This station needs to be an easy place to park, to seamlessly connect to a bus, pedestrian friendly, an approachable, comfortable, pleasant place to wait away from the station's hectic surroundings.'

- Survey respondent

More greenery and landscaping



'This is an opportunity to improve the feel and energy of this area and enhance community way of life here. Consider adding community spaces to utilise the space more. This area is barely used, and the corresponding business strip would benefit so much from building this area up to include outdoor areas, planting, cyclist and walking paths, etc.'

- Survey respondent

What you want in the new Keon Park Station precinct:



Access to local businesses



Better cyclist facilities



Easy access to station parking



Pedestrian connections and safety



Shelter and undercover station seating



More lighting and CCTV

THANK YOU AND NEXT STEPS

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback to help shape the project during the first phase of community consultation.

These big construction projects give us the opportunity to revitalise local community precincts, stations and access and increase connections across Reservoir and Thomastown.

We will use your feedback to progress the designs, ensuring that the key themes from your feedback are reflected in the final designs.

Later this year, we'll provide you with more information about the project and another opportunity

to provide your thoughts and ideas on station precinct design.

Community feedback will help deliver a project that maximises benefits to the community.

Early works will start later this year and major construction is scheduled to begin in 2023, with the new Keon Park Station open and level crossing gone in 2025.

Keeping in touch

The best way to stay up to date on the project is by signing up to email updates.

Subscribe at levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/subscribe and select **Keon Parade**. To receive SMS updates text **KEON** to **0428 581 917**.

For more information visit levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/projects/keon-parade-reservoir

Send us a private message on our Level Crossing Removal Project Facebook page. Contact our call centre on **1800 105 105** or email contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au



STAY UP TO DATE ON OUR WORKS

Scan the QR code or text **KEON** to **0428 581 917** to sign up for SMS updates about the Keon Parade Level Crossing Removal Project

Project timeline

- ✓ 2021
 - Site investigations
 - Technical assessments
- 2022
 - Community engagement
 - Further engineering investigations
 - Project designs released
- 2023
 - Construction begins
- 2024
 - Construction
- 2025
 - Boom gates gone for good
 - New Keon Park Station open

Timeline above subject to change



CONTACT US

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