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Submission to Future Melbourne Committee

City of Melbourne, Melbourne Town Hall,
03 June 2025, 5.30pm – Meeting No.9
Agenda Item 6.4 – City Road Master Plan Update

Southbank Residents Association are troubled with what appears to be, once again, the lack of vigor and attention to this project. This master plan was launched in 2016 and at the time was proposed to be completed by 2023. Year-in, year-out we have consistently raised this project to council in hope of getting some traction.

It is noted for all these years, council has not in the past requested funding from the state government. In the most part, the funding sources proposed within the plan was not coming from the state government.

The report author, Emma Robinson, mentions the FMC meeting from 20 Aug 24 where a five-part resolution was passed. I referred to this resolution in my questions during public question time on 6 May 25. While Emma outlined the resolutions collectively she failed to outline resolution 1.3 stated 'Approves the drafted budget submission for Actions 1 and 3 as a draft and directs that an updated version be prepared for the Lord Mayor to submit in November 2024.

It was concluded within that FMC meeting that the draft wasn't convincing and didn't meet the expected high-level benchmarking requirements to sell the importance of the project to obtain funding. As councillor Leppert stated, it needed to be competitive and robust. It was therefore directed to update the draft for the Lord Mayor to present. This motion was moved by Cr Griffiths and seconded by the Lord Mayor.

Only from my questions have we learnt the submission was not updated and the version presented by the Lord Mayor was the original draft.

No wonder the submission was uncompetitive, as predicted in FMC meeting of 20 Aug.

My question to this council is who decided the submission didn't need to be updated and why? Moreover, why weren't SRA informed there was a change to the resolution?

If a resolution is passed then the community expects it to be followed-through. A failure to follow-through on such an important topic to the Southbank community erodes our trust in this council and a failure to communicate this only accentuates that lack of trust.

This was a major initiative in the Annual plan but for 2024-25 I trust it will keep the same status in 2025-26.

In the 20 Aug 24 FMC the Lord Mayor noted it was worthy of Commonwealth funding, has any plans been formulated for lobbying the Commonwealth for funding?

It was a failure of this council that we didn't have developer contributions to fund this. Why was it only decided to ask the state government last year?



Sorry, but after almost 10 years and the little progress achieved thus far we can't help but feel council has not been giving this project the attention it deserves, despite our community lobbying.

Regards

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

Tony Penna
President
Southbank Residents Association