22 May 2009

Committee Chair
Road Safety Committee
Pedestrian Safety in Car Parks
Parliament of Victoria
Spring Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Mr John Eren, MLA

ENQUIRY INTO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN CAR PARKS

The City of Melbourne owns and operates four off-street car parks within the municipality:

1. Council’s corporate car park, Royal Lane, Melbourne;
2. Council House, 200 Little Collins Street, Melbourne;
3. City Square, 202-208 Flinders Lane, Melbourne; and
4. 215 Elgin Street, Carlton.

The corporate car park is managed internally by Council’s Engineering Services group, while the three public car parks are managed by Council’s Property Services branch and operated by external service provider, Premier Parking (Vic) Pty Ltd.

Minimal collisions are reported each year within Council’s car parks. Typically collisions occur between a vehicle and objects such as parking equipment, pillars or walls, or occasionally other vehicles when attempting to park in a bay. Most of these incidents are not reported to staff within the public car parks as they are either handled as a civil matter between two parties in the case of a vehicle collision, or if colliding with an object, drivers do not often stop to inform the attendants. If a driver does report the collision, staff are trained to complete an incident reporting log and advise management of the parties involved and the nature of the incident for follow up.

Council has introduced a number of pedestrian safety measures within its corporate car park operations through its traffic management and OHS plan that aim to promote the safe use of “Shared Zone” areas for pedestrians (staff), bicycles and motor vehicles. The introduction of pedestrian access pathways, independent entry/exit to car park, Shared Zone symbols and 5km speed limit signage are examples of a proactive safety approach that has positively increased the awareness for all users of the car park. Other safety measures introduced are the installation of safety barriers where vehicle movement is increased, traffic mirrors at blind spots, speed humps, parking assist barriers and a first aid kit in the event it is required.
Safety measures undertaken in the public car parks include increased lighting and signage warning both pedestrians and vehicles of the shared space and convex mirrors in areas of poor vision. The City Square and Elgin Street car parks utilise alternative pedestrian entries. All sites also have first aid kits and staff are first aid trained in case of any serious incidents.

Council suggests pedestrian safety improvements should include:

- Increased lighting of pedestrian and Shared Zone areas;
- Additional signage;
- Installation of more mirrors in blind spots and in low visibility areas;
- Non slip surfaces for pedestrian walkways;
- Oscillating light for extreme risk areas; and,
- All new car park developments should consider incorporating safe pedestrian walkways or Shared Zones within the car park area.

Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, please contact Lauren Anderson of Council’s Property Services branch on (03) 9658 9328.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Greg Stevens
Manager Property Services Branch

CoM reference 5191108