"Zero Toll should be your Goal"

Submission to the

Inquiry into Pedestrian Safety in Car Parks

of the

Road Safety Committee

of the

Parliament of Victoria

arrive alive
2008 - 2017

June 2009
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Introduction

On 4 December 2008 the Road Safety Committee received terms of reference from the Legislative Assembly.

"That under s33 of the Parliamentary Committees Act 2003 the following matters be referred to the Road Safety Committee for inquiry consideration and report, no later than 31 May 2010, on the current rules and standards that apply to pedestrian safety in car parks and the Committee is to recommend potential measures that relevant authorities should consider to improve safety for pedestrians."

Advertisements were placed in Herald Sun newspaper calling for submissions from the public and key agencies, including municipalities, car-park management and shopping centres seeking their views. (Appendix A)

RoadSafe WestGate Community Road Safety Council (CRSC) is an independent incorporated non profit organisation incorporated under Associations Incorporation Act 1981. The council is run by volunteers with no directly paid personnel.

RoadSafe WestGate CRSC has been in active operation for nearly 20 years and has a very strong local Government representation from the municipalities of the Cities of Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong and Wyndham. There is also a high commitment from local police officers including Traffic Management Units and Police Youth Resource Officers.

The community is well represented by representation including Neighbourhood Watch, Residents, Wyndham Transport Advisory Committee and SES as well as representatives from Industry such as Honda Australia and Toyota Australia.

Members donate their time and skills to create and implement road safety programs throughout the region.

One of RoadSafe WestGate CRSC’s objectives is:

- To Advocate on behalf of the local community at all government levels to improve the road safety of all road users.

The members of RoadSafe WestGate CRSC are very committed to improving road safety along with identifying challenges and advocating for change, this also includes legislative changes that impact the community at large as well as on road users to make our roads safer.

Therefore RoadSafe Westgate Community Road Safety Council is making a submission to the Road Safety Committee of the Parliament of Victoria on their inquiry in to pedestrian safety in car parks.

The following points are raised by members of WestGate as concerns and suggestions in to pedestrian safety in car parks.

Defined Walkways for Pedestrians

Car park design now needs to incorporate defined walkway for pedestrian access that where possible the interaction with motor vehicles is greatly reduced by separation. Exit points from car parks need to accommodate pedestrian safe movements.
Multi level Car Parks
Pedestrian access between the floors should only be lift or stairwell, were possible pedestrians should be discouraged from using the ramps between floors, as these are the primary use for motor vehicles. Lifts and stairwells should be clearly marked to encourage use by pedestrians.

Speed Limits in Car Parks
There needs to be a uniform and enforceable speed limit within the car park boundaries. Slower speeds within car parks such as 10km/h would be appropriate.

Shared Zones in Car Parks
A shared zone refers to a section of a road including a car park where pedestrians, cyclists and motorised traffic share the same road space. Special rules and speed limits apply for shared zones.
All car parks should be legislated as Shared Zones. Motorists must give way (yield) to pedestrians and cyclists at all times.

Speed Humps within Car Parks
An easy way of reducing vehicular speed within the boundaries of car parks is to introduce fixed speed humps on all roads within the defined car park area. This will reduce motor vehicle speed thus reducing the impact on pedestrians.

Advertising Signage in and around Car Parks
In recent years there has been a major increase in the proliferation of advertising signs, posters, and billboards within car parks or near car parks that distract a driver’s concentration. The placement of advertising within or near car parks is, clearly designed to attract the driver’s attention away from the road to the advertising.
Variable message signs (VMS) should only be allowed to be used by road authorities and local government to notify road users of any changes ahead such as “roads works ahead slow down”. VMS should not be used by retailers and traders advertising there sales.
This is a direct conflict between the principals of road safety effecting driver’s concentration caused by these distractions.

Compliance with Australian Standards
Line marking, traffic control devices, road markings and signs, in car parks frequently fail to comply with any standards let alone the Australian Standards. Often pedestrian crossings are line marked in yellow. Owners of car parks that have public access whether the access is for free or fee should be statutorily required to comply with the relevant Australian Standards to which road authorities are required to comply.

Additional Lighting in Car Parks
The varied number of shopping hours now available to customers demonstrates the changes required to service these later shopping hours by providing higher visibility lighting. Dark areas should have lighting and all lighting should be as stated in the Australian Standards.
Pedestrian Separation

In many car parking areas, there is little provision for safe pedestrian movement. Ideally safe pedestrian movement requires walkways to be physically separated from vehicular areas within the car park and, where pedestrian movement must be across a “road” within the car park, that pedestrians be protected by a formal pedestrian crossing marked and signed in accordance with Australian Standards, and preferably installed on the flat top of a raised speed reduction device.

Any further enquiries contact
Jim Giddings
Deputy Chair
RoadSafe WestGate
Telephone 9749 2509
Mobile 0419 754 944
E-Mail address: jgiddings@internode.on.net
Appendix A

The Road Safety Committee placed advertisement in the Herald Sun newspaper calling for submissions on improving pedestrian safety within car parks.
Hi Alex,

RoadSafe WestGate Community Road Safety Council (CRSC) is an independent incorporated non-profit organisation incorporated under Associations Incorporation Act 1981. RoadSafe WestGate CRSC has been in active operation for nearly 20 years and has a very strong local Government representation from the municipalities of the Cities of Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong and Wyndham. There is also a high commitment from local police officers including Traffic Management Units and Police Youth Resource Officers.

The community is well represented by representation including Neighbourhood Watch, Residents, Wyndham Transport Advisory Committee and SES as well as representatives from Industry such as Honda Australia and Toyota Australia.

RoadSafe WestGate CRSC would like to submit for the committee’s inquiry:-

- A Submission to the Inquiry into Pedestrian Safety in Car Parks of the Road Safety Committee of the Parliament of Victoria

If you or the committee requires any additional information please contact me.

Kind Regards
Jim Giddings
Deputy Chair
RoadSafe WestGate CRSC
Telephone 9749 2509
Mobile 0419 754 944
E-Mail address: jgiddings@internode.on.net

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