MAV – STATE ELECTION RESOURCE FOR COUNCILS

DRAFT LETTER OUTLINE FROM LOCAL MAYORS TO LOCAL MP OR CANDIDATE

Dear insert name of local MP or candidate

**Stronger recovery with improved walking and bike riding**

Improving walking and bike riding infrastructure to encourage more people to walk and ride are important contributors to the social and economic wellbeing of our communities. Walking and riding are also much more affordable transport and recreation options for families facing cost of living pressures.

One positive outcome of the pandemic has been increased walking and bike riding. Early signs are that this activity is continuing. It has potential to remain high, as hybrid and flexible work practices increase and people continue to avoid public transport. We don’t want this opportunity to support the development of healthy habits pass by.

Our council has invested $xx million into walking and cycling over the past year / three years but we want to do more.

In the lead up to the November election, the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is calling for $230M over four years for priority walking and cycling projects in all Victorian councils as part of its election platform. Our council endorses this request.

Building walking and riding infrastructure, including paths and safe crossing points, separate lanes and increased footpath width are all great ways to deliver wellness and mobility benefits. It also ensures safe and easy walking access to schools and priority local destinations including shops.

The return on investment for local communities is much more direct than for large-scale transport projects. Unfortunately, they are too often overlooked in favour of Big Build projects.

Attached is a list of projects that only require funding and relevant approvals to deliver much-needed local jobs and investment.

As you identify local opportunities for government investment as part of your candidacy, or as part of a new government, I would encourage you and your parliamentary colleagues to support these requests to deliver more growth, improved health and better mobility to local communities everywhere.

Optional - I have attached a copy of the “Streets are for everyone” consensus statement which sets out the case and shows the wide base of support for increased support for walking and riding.

Please feel free to reach out if you wish to discuss any of these projects further.

Yours sincerely

Mayor