

Project 4

A generous and attractive local link between Southbank and South Melbourne for walking and cycling.



OBJECTIVES:

1. Improve pedestrian and bicycle links between South Melbourne and Southbank.
2. Encourage attractive and active interfaces between the ground floor of new developments and Kavanagh Street.
3. Simplify the intersection of Queensbridge Street / City Road / Moray Street to improve amenity and legibility for all modes of traffic.
4. Optimise opportunities for useable public space associated with new development.
5. Encourage the development of built form that reduces the visual impact of the Kings Way overpass by screening it where possible and by creating a street-related architectural scale.

RIGHT: View west down Kavanagh Street to the blockage of the Kings Way overpass. (Walking and cycling could go through here)

Kavanagh / Moray Street local link

ISSUES

Poor pedestrian and cyclist amenity in Kavanagh Street:

Although Kavanagh Street has a generous (30m) road reserve width that far exceeds basic requirements for vehicular traffic, it makes poor provision for pedestrians. Most of the existing street space is used for car parking, and the extensive angle parking is hazardous for cyclists. Overhead power lines remain on the southern side, detracting from the appearance and limiting opportunities for effective street tree planting.

Likely impacts on the quality of street frontages to future developments:

Kavanagh Street has a 'back-of-house' appearance, largely resulting from its predominant use for car parking, but it is the primary address for substantial development sites to the south as well as an important frontage for the former Victorian University of Technology site near Kings Way. Collectively, these represent a large proportion of potential development in this part of Southbank. The existing condition of the street jeopardises good development outcomes on these sites, especially active engagement between building uses and adjoining streets.

A pedestrian and cycle route to South Melbourne:

Kavanagh Street could provide a useful link to Moray Street, South Melbourne (which provides an important north-south cycle route). Currently, the ramps up to the Kings Way overpass block this connection.

Queensbridge Street / City Road intersection:

The intersection of Queensbridge Street and City Road is very large and complex due to the angled crossing of four streets as well as a tramway. It is further complicated by the overhead structure of Kings Way; traffic connections weaving between the piers of Kings Way are disorienting and create multiple conflict points between vehicles and pedestrians, as well as poor visibility. Levels of service and amenity for pedestrians are extremely poor.

OPPORTUNITIES

4a. Kavanagh Street redesigned for better pedestrian and cyclist amenity:

Redesign Kavanagh Street to provide generous spaces and a high level of amenity for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as local traffic access to adjoining properties. New development could provide a highly active ground level frontage onto Kavanagh Street with a mix of local retail and hospitality uses and public seating, creating a lively and attractive public environment.



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4b. A new underpass to link Kavanagh Street and Moray Street:

Investigate the feasibility of opening up a broad walking and cycling passage under the Kings Way flyover ramp. Ensure good natural light and night lighting.

4c. Moray Street reconfigured in the Kings Way undercroft:

Reconfigure the intersection at Moray Street between Kavanagh Street and City Road, to link with the new underpass (4b) and simplify the Queensbridge Street / City Road intersection.

Kavanagh Street transformed into an attractive walking and cycling street and linked to Moray Street

BELOW LEFT: Existing view down Kavanagh Street.

BELOW: View of upgraded Kavanagh Street streetscape.



SOUTHBANK PLAN

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