



Moreland Bicycle User Group (Moreland BUG) is a non-profit organisation run by volunteers advocating for safer riding in Moreland. Each Council election we survey candidates on their commitment to issues affecting people as they get around by bike so that our members and the wider community can make an informed decision at election time.

Candidate Name: Shanaka Perera

Candidate Affiliation: Independent

7% of Morelanders use their bicycles get to work. (MITS 2019) Others ride to school, the shops and other local destinations. What is your perception of safety for these people in Moreland?

I think there are people who want to ride but don't want to do it on the road for multiple reasons including safety and trying to avoid exhaust fumes. I think there would be more people riding generally if they could do so on a shared footpath.

Road safety, community building, accessibility to transport choices, environmental and public health are public policy issues influenced by decisions Councillors make. What role do you see bicycle use having in these?

- Unrelated
- Some**
- Significant part of the solution
- Other

Which of these current projects/issues impact Moreland resident's transport choices?  
(select as many as you believe apply)

- Cumberland Road Separated bike path (retaining parking)
- Glenlyon Road Bunnings Development
- Upfield Shared Path extension to Upfield
- Craigieburn express Shared Use path
- Separated bike lanes on Sydney Road
- Covid-19 Pop up Lanes
- Other

What in your opinion, is the best solution to traffic congestion in an electorate like Moreland?

- Build more roads
- Make it easier for people to access transport options such as public transport and riding and walking.
- Other

Embrace technology and emerging trends. Cars continue to evolve and in the near future we will have driver-less cars that produce no emissions and will reduce congestion/increase pedestrian safety by the very nature of being driver-less and full of technology and so we must plan for this now. Individualised, automated transport is and will be a desirable option for many people. Lets not forget our tradies and traders too who need their vehicles! I think all modes of transport can coexist together with the right planning and embracing smart technologies.

What is the most appropriate traffic speed for our local streets to ensure safety for all users?

- 30kph
- 40kph
- 50kph
- 60kph
- Other

If you selected 'Other' above please elaborate here;

It really depends on the street but we must embrace better technology to increase safety for all while also allowing fast and efficient movement of people, especially considering the economic situation we are in.

The Moreland Integrated transport Strategy (2019) seeks to "Facilitate a demonstrable mode shift to more sustainable modes of transport that also targets a long-term reduction in car use." Do you support this aim?

- 100% yes
- Yes, with reservations
- No

If 'No' or 'With reservations', please elaborate here:

I do agree with the need to advocate for better public transport though since it is shocking compared to global standards. Also encouraging walking/riding for all of us is good considering increasing obesity rates but I don't believe drastically changing the landscape in an attempt to socially engineer people to ride their bikes/walk will have the desired outcome in sprawling cities like Melbourne. It can work in ancient cities in Europe which are very compact and grew organically but Melbourne, from federation, was a master-planned city to include a range of transport options, that is spread so far and wide in an already massive country so I also don't want to see barriers to people moving and visiting other suburbs and patronising businesses because they are unable to access these areas easily or quickly. If congestion,

[morelandbug.org](http://morelandbug.org)

Facebook: /MorelandBUG

Twitter: @MorelandBUG

Instagram: @moreland.bug

pedestrian safety and emissions are the stated problems to address, there are technological solutions already in existence and are being embraced

What is the role of Council and Councillor decisions in promoting cycling in Moreland?

- None. There are more important issues
- Minimal - happy to lend passive support for projects funded by others
- Moderate
- Major – cycling is a local issue with significant local benefits
- Other

I would ride more often if I could do so on a shared path rather than feel anxious on the roads and as infrastructure is something I want to see Moreland use a majority of their budget for, I would support the increase of shared foot/bike paths considering there are more kms of footpath than there are of roads and especially older footpaths could get renewed at the same time.

What are your aspirations for people who want to ride in Moreland over the next four years and what will your contribution to that be?

I would like to see more shared paths to encourage more bike riders and possibly advocating for a relaxation of helmet laws if riding exclusively on dedicated or shared bike paths. Riders on the road should always have helmets to protect against catastrophic injuries.

---

Interested in what Moreland BUG do to give more people in Moreland the option to ride? Sign up for our newsletter

<https://mailchi.mp/595749e8a612/morelandisbetterbybike>

[morelandbug.org](http://morelandbug.org)  
Facebook: /MorelandBUG  
Twitter: @MorelandBUG  
Instagram: @moreland.bug