

Step up for bike solutions

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HARD SLOG: Ben Douglas carries his bike up 41 steps. Picture: KYLIE ELSE (N03ME610)

FINDING a solution to the annoying Gipps St steps in Abbotsford and improving bike access at Northbank remain priorities for the Capital City Trail, says Bicycle Victoria.

But VicRoads is also aiming to keep cyclists on the popular track, with a navigation survey of about 250 cyclists on the North Carlton section underway.

Cyclists on the Main Yarra Trail, Gardiners Creek Trail and the Anniversary Trail are also having their say, with results expected in the next two weeks.

VicRoads will use the findings to provide improved signs and line-marking.

Bicycle Victoria facilities development manager Mark Dixon said cyclists could become confused on the Capital City Trail, which loops the inner suburbs and links up several bike tracks.

Mr Dixon said options were being explored to bypass a section of the trail in Abbotsford which forces cyclists to carry their bikes up 41 steps.

The options included diverting the trail around the back of the CUB brewery, building another bridge across the river, or building a ramp around the steps.

“The steps are just so difficult for people to carry their bikes up, that they just choose not to ride,”

Mr Dixon said.

Bicycle Victoria is one of several stakeholders, including Parks Victoria, and Yarra Council, working on a solution to bypass the steps.

The State Government committed \$1.5 million to fixing the problem last year.

In the city, Bicycle Victoria is working towards better access for cyclists along Northbank, from Birrarung Marr through to the Docklands.

Meanwhile, it is also carrying out its own survey of city riders, which it will present to Melbourne Council.

Details: www.bv.com.au/change-the-world/40568/