

TRAM NEWS 2009

Port Junction trackwork replaced (Junction of routes 96 & 109 at Southbank) 22/2/09.

Hawthorn & North Roads, Brighton. 7-9/3/09. Crossover shifted from south to north of North Road & couple hundred metres of track on south side of North Road replaced.

Trackwork replaced in St Kilda Road south of St Kilda Junction. 14-15/3/09

Trackwork replaced in Toorak Road near Kooyong Road. 10-13/4/09

South Caulfield intersection (Glenhuntly/Hawthorn Roads) was totally rebuilt 11-13/4/09 with double curves on the north east and south east corners replacing the single curves in these locations. This is to make run in/run out to routes 64 and 3 easier without shunting. At the same time the crossover on the south side in Hawthorn Road was removed as no longer required. The joke is that the south east curve closest to the footpath has never been used as it was built over a large telephone pit that went out under the road. 6 months later there are still smears of concrete on the rail head showing that no trams have used it. refer diagram.

Toorak & Glenferrie Roads intersection re-laid 2-3/5/09. I ~~think~~ the scissors crossover was left in position.

Trackwork replaced in Royal Park, route 55. 9/5/09.

Spring and Collins Streets. Intersection Double curves added on the south west corner. 6-8/6/09. Refer diagram.

Flinders/Clarendon & Spring Streets intersection 19-21/6/09. A pair of curves were added on the north east corner. Refer diagram.

The western end of the track in Collins Street was extended several hundred metres to Victoria Harbour with a H crossing put in at Harbour Esplanade where it crosses route 70. Date?? Probably before May.

Route 48 now goes along Collins Street instead of Flinders which was enabled by the last 3 entries. Reason – Collins Street needed a better service, it is very busy, Flinders is not as busy and still has 75 & 70, also a better service was required for the west end of Collins than the infrequent route 31 city shuttle which is now discontinued. Docklands is growing fast, now serviced by routes 30, 48, 70, 86, and 35 (City Circle).

Glenhuntly Station (Railway Square) 7-9/8/09. Railway (3 tracks)/Tramway crossing replaced.

Kingsway/Sturt Street South Melbourne intersection. 17-18/10/09. A pair of curves were added on the north west corner. The H crossing, which was in poor condition, was also replaced. In conjunction with this, to happen at a later date, the Park and Clarendon South Melb intersection will be rebuilt, but without the existing pair of curves on the north west corner. This intersection is in very poor condition & due to the new curves at Kingsway, the north west ones are no longer required.

Quite often, due to breakdowns, parades, demonstrations etc in Swanston Street, the Route 1 (South Melb Beach to East Coburg) is diverted. It uses the north west curves at Park/Clarendon, goes along Clarendon & Spencer to Latrobe, along Latrobe and turns into Swanston Street (curves put in late 80s). The problem is that Spencer Street carries several routes which turn in and out of, Flinders, Collins, Bourke & Latrobe. The routes which use Spencer are 75, 109, 112, 86, 96, 95 so it gets a bit congested if the No. 1 is diverted through there.

The plan is to divert the No. 1 via the new curves into Kingsway, William Street round the existing curves into Latrobe and then Swanston. As there is only route 55 in William St, there will be no congestion. Therefore the existing north west curves Park/Clarendon not required. Refer diagram.

Luna Park terminus has been rebuilt in a new configuration. 31/11/09 - 3/12/09. For better shunting of route 79. Route 16 (Uni to Cotham Road, Kew) runs through here & route 3A runs through on Sat & Sun. Refer diagram.

We have a 'New' Route since February - Route 3A. On weekdays, route 3 operates and on Sat & Sun route 3A operates. Route 3A turns at St Kilda Junction and runs Fitzroy St, Esplanade, Luna Park, Carlisle Street. That is it diverts around St Kilda to give a better service to the area at weekends. But of course the route number displays cannot show letters (The French Citadis trams have French letters), so a card with 3A on it is displayed in the front window.

Since February Route 78 (Pahran) now runs 7 days a week till 6.30 pm then runs as route 79 (St Kilda Beach).

The Franchise operators were changed at the beginning of December. The suburban trains, formerly Veolia trading as Connex are now MTM trading as METRO. The trams, formerly TransdevTSL trading as Yarra Trams, is now KDR Keolis Downer Rail trading as Yarra Trams. Although the name is still Yarra Trams, the logo has been changed. New colour schemes are starting to appear. V/line is still being run by the government since the English franchisee walked off.

Only major trackwork has been listed, there were many small patch-up jobs and work done on Kooyong & Riversdale railway crossings. A lot of overhead was replaced. Compiled by Peter Carwardine with assistance from David Mehlman. Dec 2009.

