

Melbourne to get more bike lanes

- **Clay Lucas**
- February 23, 2009

NEW bicycle commuter routes and the inclusion of special lanes in all large-scale road projects are expected to be part of the first major bicycle plan for Melbourne since the early 1980s.

- **Boost for cyclists**
- **Focus on CBD**
- **\$2bn road-building plan**

The Government has been working on its bicycle strategy for several months, but delayed its release because of the bushfires.

In the strategy, now to be launched next month, \$18 million a year will be spent over the next six years, with a renewed focus on priority routes into the city centre.

Bicycle lanes on William Street and La Trobe Street will be bolstered as part of the plan, to make cycling in the CBD safer.

VicRoads has also confirmed it is investigating reducing the speed limit in the CBD to 40 km/h, to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

The plan will also mandate for the first time construction of bicycle lanes into the state's \$2 billion road-building program.

A letter from Roads Minister Tim Pallas to cycle lobby group [Bicycle Victoria](#) sent late last year stressed that the strategy would focus on making bicycle lanes an integral part of all new road building.

A cycle plan was needed for those who wanted to use their bicycle as a transport mode, rather than for recreational, tourist or sports cyclists, Bicycle Victoria chief executive Harry Barber said.

"In the past, bike plans have been muddled because they tried to be a recreational plan or a bike tourism plan," he said. "But we want this to be a transport plan for bikes."