# MEDIA RELEASE 2: CHOOSE SAFE PLACES TO CROSS ROADS

Mayor/ Councillor (**insert name**) said pedestrians should choose safe places cross roads. He/she said, “Safe places to cross are where you can see clearly in both directions and can be seen by approaching traffic. Pedestrians should then cross the road by the shortest or most direct route.”

Emphasising the need for pedestrians to take care when crossing roads, Cr (**insert name**) said walking routes should be planned ahead to include marked pedestrian crossings wherever possible.

“If no marked crossing is available, pedestrians should look for places with kerb extensions, median strips or pedestrian refuges to make crossings safer. Pedestrians should not try to cross between parked cars and should keep clear of roadside objects such as signs, bus shelters or bushes. They need to make it easier for drivers and riders to see them as well as making sure they can see all approaching traffic,” Cr (**insert name**) said.

To encourage safer pedestrian behaviour, penalties can be imposed. It is an offence to cross the road within 20 metres of a pedestrian crossing, to not cross by the shortest or most direct route or to cause a traffic hazard by moving into the path of a vehicle.

Over recent years, on average, about one pedestrian a week is killed on Victorian roads.

Cr (**insert name**) also urged drivers and riders to watch for pedestrians and be prepared for the unexpected, such as people crossing near bends or crests and suddenly emerging from behind parked cars or roadside objects.

Drivers and riders must remember that older pedestrians may move more slowly and might not see or hear approaching vehicles and that children sometimes run onto the road without looking. Around entertainment precincts, motorists should watch for pedestrians that may be affected by alcohol.

“Pedestrians must take responsibility for their own safety, ensure they can be seen and remain alert at all times,” Cr **(insert name)** said.

“All road users need to make allowances for people making mistakes or not knowing the rules and always share the road courteously and responsibly.”

For further information, please contact (**insert name and telephone number and/or email address**)

Media Enquiries: