



JULY 2022

Walking Action Plan 2022–2030

Snapshot



A message from the Mayor



Walking offers something for everyone. It supports good health and wellbeing, it helps grow social connections, it is good for the environment and it boosts our local economy. To make walking an attractive transport option, we need to provide a safe, comfortable walking environment for people of all abilities.

The City of Stonnington's Walking Action Plan sets in place the vision, strategic priorities and actions that will ensure our walking environments and networks continue to be safe and accessible to people walking in and around our city.

Walking, whether unaided or with the assistance of a mobility device, is central to how we live and enjoy the vibrant precincts, parklands, river side trails and tree-lined streets of our neighbourhoods.

In Stonnington, walking is a well established mode of transport with more than 26 per cent of all journeys in 2018 made by walking. Since 1996, we have also seen a 37 per cent increase in the number of people who walk to work.

Considering most Stonnington residents live within a 10-minute walk of a shopping precinct, train, tram or bus, it is very likely the number of people choosing walking as their preferred mode of transport will continue to grow.

The Walking Action Plan supports our integrated approach to transport, as outlined in the City of Stonnington Integrated Transport Plan 2020, and will guide us to grow and renew our precincts and neighbourhoods while considering the walking environment.

By implementing the actions in the Walking Action Plan we hope to see even more people choosing walking as a means to enjoy the vibrant precincts and neighbourhoods our city has to offer.

Acknowledgment

The City of Stonnington acknowledges that we are on the Traditional Lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the East Kulin Nations and pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

About the Walking Action Plan Snapshot



The Walking Action Plan Snapshot provides an overview of the Vision, Strategic Priorities and Targets contained in the full Walking Action Plan.

To read the full Walking Action Plan, including a full list of Actions proposed to improve and enhance the Stonnington walking environment, visit **stonnington.vic.gov.au**

Executive Summary

Almost everything we do involves some form of walking and, whether on foot or with the help of a mobility device like a wheelchair or walking frame, walking is fundamental.

In Stonnington, walking is a popular recreation activity and active-transport option with tree-lined streets, thriving activity centres, shopping precincts and parklands within easy walking distance. Our location close to the CBD and a well-connected public transport system, makes walking for everyday trips accessible and enjoyable, with many people walking daily even if just as part of a longer journey.

Walking is important to the community as it improves health and wellbeing, and creates opportunities for social connection.

From an economic perspective, walking to activity centres is vital and those who walk there generally stay longer and spend more. Walking infrastructure is also a good transport investment and very space efficient requiring much less space than a road lane to move many more people. Walking is also free, saving on personal transport costs.

Walking is sustainable and swapping other modes of transport to walking is one of the most effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, noise and air pollution.

Local government is the tier of government most responsible for the provision of walking infrastructure. Promoting and increasing walking is a core focus of the Future Stonnington Council Plan 2021-25 and Community Vision, and as a short term action in the Integrated Transport Plan.

To develop the Walking Action Plan we engaged with the community to better understand their walking habits, what they enjoy about walking in Stonnington, and what issues and challenges we need to address to improve the city's walking environment. The Walking Action Plan is an

evidence-based strategic document which outlines walking trends, and proposes initiatives and targets to address barriers to walking and guide Council action to encourage more people to walk more often.



Link to Community Vision and Council Plan

The Walking Action Plan supports the vision and principles of the City of Stonnington Community Vision 2040, and strategic directions, objectives and priorities within the Council Plan 2021-2025.

Community Vision 2040

Protect biodiversity, take climate action and pursue eco-friendly ways of living, guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development goals

Stonnington's public spaces will provide the ability for all members of the community to experience and enjoy the natural environment.

We provide access to a variety of quality services and amenities for everyone within 20 minutes.

Council Plan 2021-2025

DIRECTION 1: **A thriving and unique place**

- » Identity and destination
- » Pride of place and character
- » Active transport and connected city

DIRECTION 2: **An inclusive and healthy community**

- » Health and wellbeing
- » Diverse, inclusive and safe
- » Public and green spaces
- » Sustainability and climate action

DIRECTION 3: **A people centred and future ready city**

- » Community focus, connection and engagement

Transport Policy

Deliver Priority

Increase Connection

Improve Safety

Raise profile

Integrated Transport Plan

Develop a Walking Strategy for the municipality to address, encourage and promote an increased walking mode share.

Identify and construct/advocate to State Government for new pedestrian crossings in key locations that have high pedestrian demand or a history of serious injury/fatality.

Establish a local street network of high-quality pedestrian routes that are safe, comfortable and accessible.

Walking Action Plan

Walking Action Plan engagement lifecycle

The Walking Action Plan was developed through a series of community engagement programs, commencing in May 2021 when we sought to understand walking habits, satisfaction level, barriers to walking and ideas for improvement. More details are provided in the Appendices.

What we heard informed development of the draft Walking Action Plan, that was presented for community feedback in April 2022. Feedback from the April 2022 engagement informed changes to the draft before it was presented for Council adoption in June 2022.



What the Stonnington community told us



25.3%

always walk for short trips (less than 20-minute)



50%+

usually walk for short trips

They love to walk for enjoyment, transport and exercise



They want to see barriers and challenges addressed to build an even more walkable city



Residents would like to walk more often

Respondents indicated the most support for:



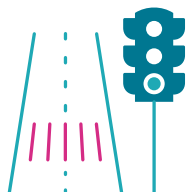
58%

wider, better quality paths and more space for pedestrians



44%

addressing missing footpaths and pedestrian crossing connections



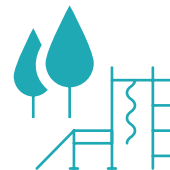
44%

improving pedestrian priority with infrastructure and more crossing time



43%

improving lighting



66%

of respondents were keen to see more street pop-ups and parklets to create people oriented streets



34%

of respondents supported share path user and dog owner etiquette programs.



33%

more separation of pedestrians and cyclists



31%

more shade, shelter, public toilets, drink fountains and rest stop seating



30%

reducing the impact of busy roads, or encroachment of moving vehicles

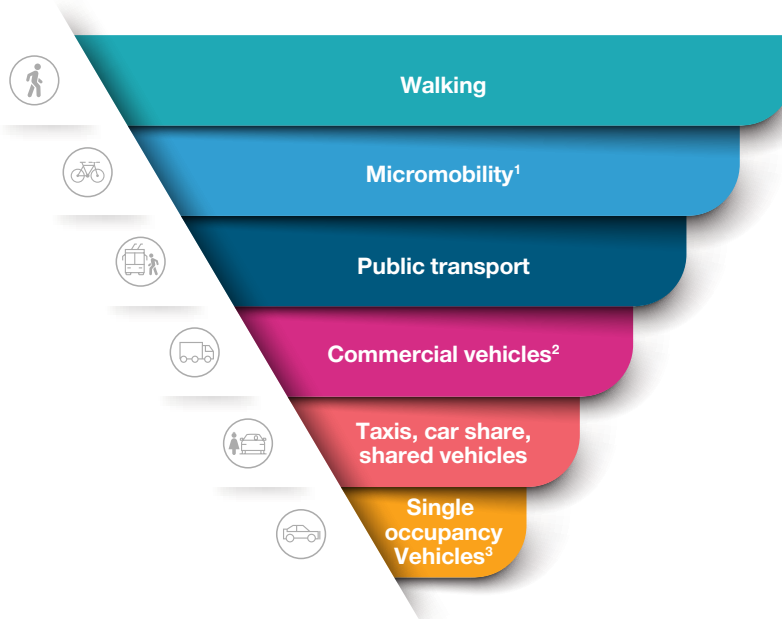
Vision



The Walking Action Plan vision, strategic priorities and targets have been developed by considering the current context of our city, walking trends, community views, and best practice.

The vision provides an aspirational goal of walking in Stonnington in 2030:

- » Stonnington will be a recognised walkable city where pedestrians are at the heart of how the city operates.
- » Our pedestrian environment will be accessible and inclusive to all in the community.
- » Our road crossings, streets and laneways will be safe and welcoming with more pedestrian crossings, priority zones and reduced vehicle speeds that make walking more attractive.
- » Our streets and activity centres will be built around walking with wide high-quality footpaths, an interconnected network and abundant public space for outdoor dining, trading, and socialising.
- » Walking will be the mode of choice for short trips including walking to school, ensuring no one is disadvantaged by not having access to a private vehicle or public transport.
- » Walking routes will be green, shaded and welcoming places for moving, meeting and resting.



¹ Includes bikes, scooters, skateboards, both private and shared and those that are electric powered.

² Those serving local businesses and institutions.

³ Electric-powered single occupancy vehicles to be prioritized over non-electric.

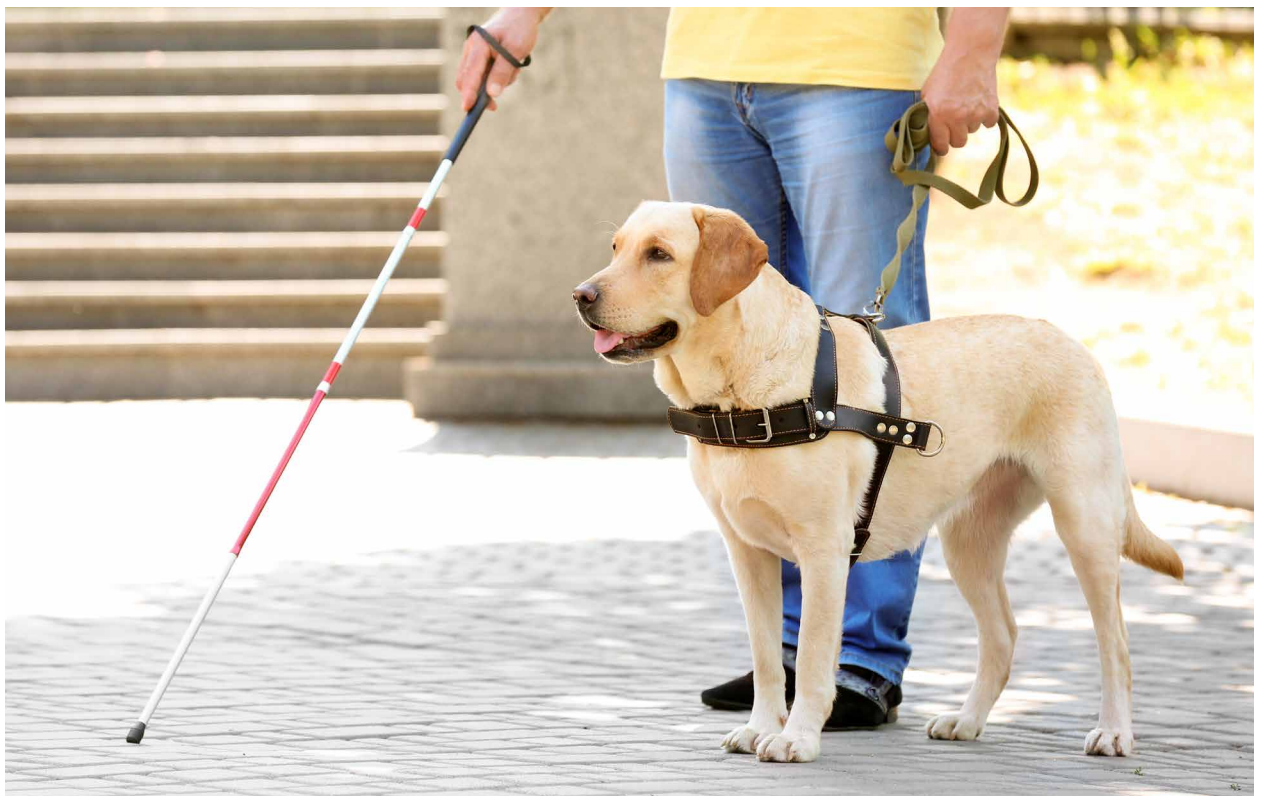
Strategic priority 1:

Safe, accessible and inclusive streets for people

A safe, accessible and inclusive walking environment is important to encourage more people to walk more often.

Targets:

- » Build streets for people with priority for pedestrians and safer traffic speeds
- » Accessible streets for all
- » A more inclusive walking network
- » Address shared path safety issues



Strategic Priority 2:

Efficient, connected and convenient walking networks underpinning the local economy

An efficient and connected walking network is also an attractive and convenient transport option and can make walking the mode of choice for many trips. Vibrant high streets and shopping destinations encourage people to visit and stay to shop, socialise and connect with public transport.

Targets:

- » Put walking at the centre of the local economy and planning for the future
- » Create a more interconnected and efficient walking network
- » Measure, monitor, evaluate and plan through improved data collection and analysis



Strategic priority 3:

Walking for healthy lifestyles and community connection

Walking is key to social equity, as part of a healthy lifestyle, and in supporting community connection.

Targets:

- » Support walking events and programs
- » Promotion of walking and improving access to information
- » Walking Safety and Etiquette Programs
- » Safe Routes to School Program



Strategic priority 4:

Interconnected, green and resilient walking environment

Moving away from fossil-fuelled cars to more sustainable transport modes like walking is one of the most effective way to reduce emissions. Not only is walking zero emissions but prioritizing walking on our local streets can provide opportunities for urban greening to improve amenity and comfort and mitigate the negative impacts of vehicle traffic.

Targets:

- » Prioritise walking to reduce transport emissions
- » Green, cool walking network adapted for a changing climate





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Human Rights Charter

This document has been reviewed against and complies with section 13 of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, as this document aligns with and provides for the protection of an individual's right not to have their privacy unlawfully or arbitrarily interfered with. It is also in line with section 18, which recognises a person's right to participate in the conduct of public affairs.