



**JULY 2022**

# Walking Action Plan 2022–2030

## **Community Feedback**

# Changes to Walking Action Plan in response to community feedback



## Overview:

In May 2021 we asked the community about their walking habits, satisfaction level, barriers to walking and ideas for improvement to help develop a draft Walking Action Plan for Stonnington.

In April 2022 we shared the draft Walking Action Plan with the community to make sure we got it right. You let us know there were a few things missing or that needed to be refined. The table below outlines how community feedback influenced the final version of the Walking Action Plan.

For more information on engagement activities or to view the full plan please refer to the City of Stonnington Walking Action Plan.



Community feedback	Relevant section	Changes made in response
Blocked footpaths due to garbage bins on collection days and hard rubbish collections impacting accessibility	Accessible streets for all	New action added (page 31): 'Investigate solutions to minimise the impact on footpaths of rubbish bins on collection days and hard waste collection'
Blocked footpaths due to cars parked across driveways, construction impacts making walking less safe and inconvenient	Accessible streets for all	Issues relate to enforcement of existing rules and have been directed to Council's Compliance team to address. No change made to Walking Action Plan.
Vehicles partly or fully parked on footpaths	Accessible streets for all	Updated existing action to (page 31): 'Develop a Council approach to narrow streets to address accessibility issues, vehicles parking on footpaths, and provide compliant footpaths'
Better maintenance of vegetation and trees to ensure sightlines and prevent it blocking or narrowing the path and proactive contacting of residents with overgrown foliage rather than being based on complaints.	Accessible streets for all	Addressed under action (page 31): 'Review and update Council's Asset Management Plans and Road Management Plan to ensure footpaths and shared paths are inspected regularly, issues responded to promptly, and assets are rebuilt to improved service levels.' Action updated to include 'vegetation issues'.

Community feedback	Relevant section	Changes made in response
Increased cleaning of paths e.g. litter, weeds and graffiti	A more inclusive walking network	Updated existing action to (page 32): 'Undertake improvements to lighting, urban design, street cleaning, maintenance and activation focused on hotspot areas to address personal safety concerns and undertake rolling audits to identify further priority locations'
Poor lighting on residential streets	A more inclusive walking network	New action (page 32): 'Introduce 'Street Lighting' webpage on Council's website to allow residents to report lighting issues to the responsible electricity distributor'
Need waste bins near walking trails for rubbish and pet waste bags	A more inclusive walking network	Action Plan text updated to (page 32): 'The city will also deliver infrastructure to support walking - such as shade, seating, public toilets, rubbish and pet waste bins, drinking fountains and wayfinding directional signage - focused on the Stonnington Walking Network.'
Better wayfinding signage aimed at visitors	A more inclusive walking network	As per above change, terminology has been clarified to 'wayfinding directional signage' (page 32).
Ways to manage distressed and unstable people as this is a disincentive to walking for many people, especially around Chapel Street.	A more inclusive walking network	This issue is discussed at length as part of the YourGround data presented which indicated lighting and activation (page 32) were potential rectifying actions. No change made to Walking Action Plan.
Revisiting outdoor dining licences with some considered to unnecessarily take up footpath space	Put walking at the centre of the local economy and planning for the future	Action Plan text updated to (page 34): 'Work to develop an approach to managing and supporting ongoing use of outdoor dining and parklets, while ensuring adequate space for walking and balancing other community demands, will also continue.'
Encouraging weather protection over footpaths on street-based shopping strips	Create a more interconnected and efficient walking network	Action Plan text updated to (page 35): 'Council will also maximise walking in private developments through updating and requiring minimum design standards - recommending new pedestrian connections and spaces, increased weather protection, and requiring other initiatives that support active travel.'

Community feedback	Relevant section	Changes made in response
Diagonal / scramble crossings for key junctions (Chapel/Toorak, Chapel/Commercial, Chapel/High & Commercial/Izett)	Create a more interconnected and efficient walking network	Action Plan text updated to (page 35): 'Diagonal or scramble crossings which allow all pedestrian movements in one phase will also be investigated however these are not always suitable for intersections with busy tram routes.'
Extended crossing time at larger intersections especially for those with mobility issues or injuries.	Create a more interconnected and efficient walking network	Updated 'Dynamic pedestrian crossings' break out box (page 35): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Detect the number of people waiting to cross and adjusts the wait time and crossing time accordingly. This can reduce wait times, especially for larger groups, reduce the risk of pedestrians spilling out on to the roadway at busy crossings, and eliminate the need to press the button.</li> <li>- Safer vehicle right turn signals, with the red light held for vehicles when pedestrians are crossing on the green man, providing increased crossing time for those who need it and reducing the chance of accidents.</li> </ul>
Bolder steps towards genuinely prioritising pedestrians such as closing Chapel St to road traffic (trams excepted) at weekends (if necessary, from 12 noon onwards), adopting the 'Open Streets' approach referenced under priority 3.	Support walking events and programs	Open Streets case study already included as an example. Action Plan text updated to (page 37): 'Community engagement identified support for events to encourage walking, such as walks with pets and dogs in shops program, and initiatives such as opening local streets and those around schools to walking and bike riding while limiting through traffic (see Open Streets below). The city is keen to support the community to plan and develop such walking events and initiatives, and to partner with external organisations such as Victoria Walks, Walk21 and VicHealth.'
Community events including walking with pets and social walks for elderly.	Support walking events and programs	Included in updated Action Plan text in previous issue.

Community feedback	Relevant section	Changes made in response
Can you extend the dogs in shops program that is in place in Chapel Street to the rest of Stonnington. Combining a dog walk with shopping is so convenient.	Support walking events and programs	Included in updated Action Plan text in previous issue.
Dog-free walking tracks and better management of dogs off-leash in streets or even in park land which is not designated off-leash.	Walking Safety and Etiquette Programs	Action Plan text updated to (page 38): 'Programs being investigated include shared path etiquette awareness recognising increased cycling levels, the need for responsible pet ownership, and the potential for conflict with people walking as well as safe mobility scooter and wheelchair use. Action updated to: Develop and implement a suite of community safety and etiquette programs to encourage walking and address barriers, such as shared path conflicts and responsible pet ownership.
More trees in street-based shopping strips and less impermeable surfaces.	Green, cool walking network adapted for a changing climate	Action Plan text updated to (page 41): 'The city will carefully plan how best to achieve this in our residential streets, open spaces and in street-based activity centres considering tree species that are complementary to walking in terms of shade, sunlight and leaf and nut fall.
Revisit the tree species used as part of the Urban Forest Strategy, especially those that drop small round hard gum nuts that can be a tripping hazard. Increased deciduous trees provide more shade in summer and allow through light (both sunlight and streetlight) in winter.	Green, cool walking network adapted for a changing climate	Largely dictated by the Urban Forest Strategy 2017-2022. Action Plan text updated as per previous issue.
Better care of trees during establishment to increase survival	Green, cool walking network adapted for a changing climate	Comments have been directed to Council's Arboriculture team. No change made to Walking Action Plan.