20-Minute Neighbourhoods

Walkability is at the heart of urban vibrancy, short blocks, population density and diversity and a mix of uses, building types and ages that all play out in a “sidewalk ballet”

- Jane Jacobs, 1961

Street Connectivity  Access to Destinations  Density
Global Challenges

Transportation systems, urban design, and land use are interconnected systems that have an enormous effect on climate change and obesity.

We need densification and *neighbourhood scale interventions* to create mixed-used environments with a range of destinations to which people can easily walk and cycle.

*2019 Lancet Report Global Epidemics of Obesity, Undernutrition, and Climate Change*
Melbourne’s population is projected to grow from 4.5 million to almost 8 million by 2051.

The economy will need to adapt and grow, creating another 1.5 million jobs for a changing workforce.

Melbourne will need to build 1.6 million homes in places where people want to live.

The city’s transport network will need to support 10 million more trips a day — an increase of more than 80%.

The city will have to cope with more extreme heat and longer droughts.

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Neighbourhood Challenges

- Low density
- Limited investment
- Congestion
- Limited public participation
- Social isolation
- Declining public health
- Poor accessibility
Plan Melbourne is a long-term plan to accommodate Melbourne’s future growth in population.

Vision: A global city of opportunity and choice

PRINCIPLES

- Principle 1: A distinctive Melbourne
- Principle 2: A globally connected and competitive city
- Principle 3: A city of centres linked to regional Victoria
- Principle 4: Environmental resilience and sustainability
- Principle 5: Living locally — 20-minute neighbourhoods
- Principle 6: Social and economic participation
- Principle 7: Strong and healthy communities
- Principle 8: Infrastructure investment that supports balanced city growth
- Principle 9: Leadership and partnership
Living locally - 20-Minute Neighbourhoods Principle

Living locally - 20-minute neighbourhoods
Creating accessible, safe and attractive local areas where people can access most of their everyday needs within a 20-minute walk, cycle or local public transport trip, will make Melbourne healthier and more inclusive.

Principle is embedded in policies across the plan:

- Jobs
- Housing
- Transport
- Community and liveability
Hallmarks of a 20-Minute Neighbourhoods

Research undertaken by the Heart Foundation (Victoria) for the Victorian Government identifies hallmarks of a 20-minute neighbourhood.

A 20-minute neighbourhood must:

» be safe, accessible and well connected for pedestrians and cyclists to optimise active transport
» offer high-quality public realm and open spaces
» provide services and destinations that support local living
» facilitate access to quality public transport that connects people to jobs and higher-order services
» deliver housing/population at densities that make local services and transport viable
» facilitate thriving local economies
20-Minute Neighbourhood Attributes

The ability to meet most of your everyday needs locally within a 20-minute journey from home by walking, cycling, riding or local public transport.
800m Walkable Catchment
Why we need 20-minute neighbourhoods

If 50% of short private vehicle trips were instead made by walking, it would save the Victorian economy approximately $165 million a year in congestion, health, infrastructure and environmental costs.

**Economic benefits**

- Increases transport capacity
- Can reduce household transport costs by 50%
- Cycling infrastructure lowers health care costs
- Walking interventions can increase incidental trading by up to 40%
- Increases viability to build in middle and outer ring suburbs

**Health benefits**

- Reduce costs of obesity, inactivity and chronic disease
- Increase walking rates
- Higher active transport use by all age groups
- Promotes mental health - reduced anxiety, better sleep quality, positive affect and cognitive performance
- Improves self reported wellbeing
Why we need 20-minute neighbourhoods

**Social benefits**

» Creates opportunities for social interaction and social cohesion
» Enhances sense of community
» Supports social equity
» Promotes social connections
» Can increase actual and perceived safety through increased passive surveillance

**Environment benefits**

» Compact development can reduce drive times by 40% and CO2 emissions by up to 10%
» Mixed use and higher density development reduces pollution and fuel consumption
» Walk to school programs have been found to reduce vehicle drop offs, reducing CO2 emissions
20-Minute Neighbourhood Pilot Program
20-Minute Neighbourhood Pilot Program

Plan Melbourne Five-Year-Implementation Plan

Action 75: Whole-of-government approach to 20-minute neighbourhoods

Testing the practical delivery of 20-minute neighbourhoods as part of a whole-of-government case study.

Stage 1: Existing Neighbourhoods

Project objectives

» Create more vibrant, inclusive and healthy neighbourhoods and deliver policies outlined in Plan Melbourne
» Build community partnerships
» Investigate how agencies can operate and collaborate more effectively
Pilot Neighbourhoods - Issues

Sunshine West (Glengala)  
Brimbank CC

- Limited economic investment
- Aging streetscape
- Limited retail diversity
- Low quality public spaces
- Pedestrian safety issues

Croydon South  
Maroondah CC

- Low density (17 dwellings/ha)
- Entrenched car dependency
- Disconnected pedestrian network
- Some issues around perceptions of safety
- Abundance of public open space

Strathmore  
Moonee Valley CC

- Limited public open spaces
- Traffic speed
- Poor pedestrian amenity
- Limited retail diversity
- Large and wide roads
Step 1 - Developing Community Partnerships

Sunshine West
- Pop-up Park
- Shop Local Campaign
- Surveys – community priorities
- Community workshop
- Walking tour

Croydon South
- Liveability Survey
- Community Day
- Coffee with a cop
- Community movie night
- Stories of Strathmore – profiling local residents and traders
- Community workshop
- Youth engagement workshop

Strathmore
- Street Party
- Stories of Strathmore – profiling local residents and traders
- Community workshop
- Youth engagement workshop
Online Engagement Platform

“I see frequent near misses with children and teenagers crossing the road in this area. I am very concerned that a fatality may occur in this location.” - Nathalie

“Underutilised strip of shops for a 20min community. Opportunity to encourage more retail / cafes/take away to use these spaces before the all become residential.” - Strathmore Resident
“I love how we can create a new feel of the neighbourhood with a little bit of paint, hard work and community involvement.” - Jess
Step 2 - Technical Assessments

Walking assessment - Sunshine West

Movement & Place

Housing development & heat vulnerability mapping
## Heart Foundation - 20-Minute Neighbourhood Scorecard

### 3.1 Scorecard

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### Sense of Place

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### Housing Diversity

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### Healthy Food

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### Alignments

- **Aligns to hallmark**: ▲
- **Improvement required**: ■
- **Fails to align to hallmark**: ▼
Step 3 - Whole of government workshops and Council Reporting
Re-naturalise Tarralla Creek

Improve pedestrian crossing and review signal phasing

Safe walk to school program

Connect footpath to bus stop

Improve public open space

Support public art program

Improve lighting and facilities

Investigate opportunities for housing diversity

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**Preliminary Stage 1 Key Findings**

» The place based approach was successful
» Continuing the whole of government approach
» Neighbourhood activity centres are critical in supporting local living
» The community partnership approach produces a wealth of benefits
» Scaling up neighbourhood planning
20-Minute Neighbourhood Pilot Project
Stage 2 - Greenfield Neighbourhoods
Q&A Panel session

- Duane Burtt - Victoria Walks
- Naomi Gilbert - Heart Foundation
- Karin Grima - Brimbank City Council
- Kate McCaughey - Moonee Valley City Council
- Monica Ashton - Maroondah City Council
- James Mant - Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

More information

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Website and brochure