



THEME TWO **ACCESSIBLE AND WELL CONNECTED**

GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
2020–2021

BENTLEIGH • BENTLEIGH EAST • BRIGHTON EAST • CARNEGIE • CAULFIELD • ELSTERNWICK
GARDENVALE • GLEN HUNTLY • MCKINNON • MURRUMBEENA • ORMOND • ST KILDA EAST



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL

THEME TWO

ACCESSIBLE AND WELL CONNECTED

Long-term community goal:

A City that is easy to move around, full of safe travel options and walkable neighbourhoods.

We are committed to maintaining a safe footpath network, upgrading bicycle routes and coming up with new solutions to address parking demands.

In 2020–2021 we:

- expanded our *Active Schools Program*, which encourages parents and children to walk, ride or scoot to school. We have 13 local schools participating in the program and hope to continue to grow this. To assist us with this, we welcomed funding from VicHealth which will be used to encourage further schools to participate in the *Active Schools* initiative that will be run in October 2021; and
- commenced implementation of our *Cycling Action Plan*, which included developing a plan to install a network of cyclist counters for continuous monitoring; developing a draft of the *Street Design Guidelines*, to ensure future on-road cycling provisions are of a high standard; completing a *Cycling Guide*; completing a draft *Bike Parking Strategy*; and working in consultation with Chadstone Shopping Centre and Stonnington Council to connect the Djerring Trail in Murrumbeena with the Scotchman's Creek Trail in Malvern East, via Boyd Park Murrumbeena.

THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THIS LONG-TERM COMMUNITY GOAL ARE:

1. DEVELOP A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO TRANSPORT AND PARKING, WHICH INVOLVES PLANNING AND ACCOMMODATING FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS, THE INDIVIDUAL'S JOURNEY AND THE CITY AS A WHOLE.

WE WILL:

- Develop an integrated approach on the many different ways we can move around the City; with a focus on safer, greener and walkable neighbourhoods.
- Improve our local streets and shared paths through the implementation of a revised *Cycling Strategy*, *Walking Strategy* and street design guidelines.

2. ADDRESS THE COMMUNITY'S PARKING NEEDS TO MINIMISE IMPACTS ON COMMUNITY WELLBEING, AND IMPROVE THE CONNECTIONS AND THE VIBRANCY OF THE CITY.

WE WILL:

- Manage public parking within built up areas and shopping precincts through targeted improvements.
- Address the impact of new developments by reviewing the parking requirements within our *Planning Scheme* to ensure that developments provide their fair share of on-site parking and minimise the impacts on the amenity of local streets.
- Prepare a strategic, municipal-wide review of car parking and traffic to help inform future decision-making regarding parking provision.

3. REDUCE CAR CONGESTION BY ENCOURAGING GREATER LOCAL EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES CLOSE TO HOME AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORKS.

WE WILL:

- Explore local planning policy, to ensure that it encourages local employment opportunities.
- Undertake place-based planning that encourages greater employment, residential and business opportunities within our urban places.

4. ENHANCE ROAD USER SAFETY WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS AROUND SCHOOLS AND ACTIVITY CENTRES.

WE WILL:

- Update our *Road Safety Strategy* with the latest VicRoads data (Road Crash Information Systems) and publish an update of the action plan.
- Continue and monitor our program of safety audits around schools.
- Through our parking enforcement framework, ensure our drivers park in a safe and fair manner.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY, COUNCIL WILL ADVOCATE FOR:

- State Government and adjoining councils to take a collaborative approach to transport planning.
- High quality design and integration of committed railway grade separation projects and a commitment to remove Glenhuntly Road and Neerim Road level crossings.
- Improved access to public transport, particularly more direct bus services linking existing rail and tram services to our shopping precincts and community places.
- Reduced speed limits and other road safety initiatives around school crossings and shopping centre precincts.
- The State Government to prioritise through-traffic on the roads that it is responsible for.

HOW WILL WE KNOW IF WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

STRATEGIC INDICATOR	RESULT
We will increase bicycle usage by 10 per cent from 2017 figures.	<p>There has been a three per cent* increase in bicycle usage in 2021 (2,110 daily AM movements**) from 2016 figures (2,051 movements). In comparing the same sites surveyed in 2020, there has been a 14 per cent reduction in movements when comparing 2020 to 2021.</p> <p>There are a number of potential factors explaining this decline.</p> <p>It is likely that issues related to COVID-19 affected bike riding activity in March. These issues may include increased preferences for working from home arrangements, an increase in car-based travel, and the gradual return of employees to offices. This decrease was reflected nationally, with a 33% national decrease when compared with the same sites surveyed in 2020.</p> <p>In 2020 6.2 per cent* increase in bicycle usage in 2020 (2,150) from 2016 figures (2,051 movements).</p> <p>In 2019 bicycle usage decreased by two per cent compared to 2018.</p> <p>In 2018 bicycle usage decreased marginally by one per cent compared to 2016. The 2018 data indicates there were 2,025 movements in 2018 compared to 2,051 movements** in 2016.</p> <p>*Source: Super Tuesday Commuter Bike Count. The bike count was conducted on Tuesday 2 March 2021 for two hours from 7am to 9am. As this count is a single morning census it can be affected by weather (new sites added since 2016 sites were excluded from this comparison).</p> <p>**Movements — a bicycle moving through the survey area in the time period of the count.</p>

HOW WILL WE KNOW IF WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL? (continued)

STRATEGIC INDICATOR	RESULT
A greater percentage of people (compared to 2017 numbers) will live within walking distance of a major transport node.	Population growth continues to drive the demand for diverse and affordable housing in Glen Eira. Development activity, particularly apartments, are being directed to the major activity centres. The majority of our major activity centres are conveniently located along and within walking distance to major train and tram lines. Bentleigh, Carnegie and Elsternwick have experienced growth in apartments in the 2020–21, with each of these centres suitably located around train stations on three separate rail lines. The number of apartments in Bentleigh increased by 5 per cent, Carnegie 7.7 per cent and Elsternwick 9.5 per cent.
We will construct five per cent of our missing link footpaths.	<p>During the 2020–21 capital works budget process, Council significantly reduced the capital works portfolio to prepare for the uncertainty of COVID-19 and the slowing down of 2019–20 projects. As a result, the construction of missing link footpaths were not incorporated into the 2020–21 <i>Annual Budget</i>.</p> <p>Alternatively, Council invested \$300,000 into removing asphalt wedging and footpath hazards on the Great Walking Streets*. In addition, Council continued to invest \$1.85 million into footpath renewal across Glen Eira and \$375,000 to address footpath risks associated with tree damage.</p> <p>* For more information see our Walking and Accessibility Action Plan 2019–2024.</p>
We will achieve a five per cent improvement in the ‘Walk Score’ across the municipality.	<p>The 20201 Walk Score for the Glen Eira municipality is 73*, which is unchanged from 2018, 2019 and 2020.</p> <p>A score between 70–89 deems Glen Eira very walkable, where the community can accomplish most errands on foot. It is anticipated that this score will improve as Council gradually implements its <i>Integrated Transport Strategy</i>, including Council’s <i>Walking and Accessibility Action Plan</i>.</p> <p>*Source: www.walkscore.com</p>



HOW WILL WE KNOW IF WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL? (continued)

STRATEGIC INDICATOR	RESULT
We will achieve a five per cent improvement rating of traffic management and parking facilities from the previous year's <i>Community Satisfaction Survey</i>.	<p>The 2021 <i>Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey</i> indicates there has been a one per cent decrease in Glen Eira's parking facilities performance score from 59 in 2020 to 58 in 2021.</p> <p>The slight decrease in performance can be attributed to Council electing to not enforce certain parking restrictions during COVID-19 lockdowns. To support the community through lockdowns, Council did not enforce 'green sign' parking offences such as 2-hour parking and only enforced safety breaches to the areas that displayed 'red signs' such as No Stopping signs.</p> <p>The move to not enforce certain parking restrictions was to support a high proportion of community members who were working from home or isolating in line with State Government requirements and to also support businesses succeed through an uncertain economic environment.</p> <p>Whilst the score has resulted in a decrease, it is in line with the State average score of 58.</p>

Achieved =  Not achieved =  Deferred by Council 

Not achieved due to COVID-19 pandemic = 

Not achieved due to factors outside of Council's control = 

2020–21 COMMITMENT	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	RESULT
We will continue to implement of our <i>Integrated Transport Strategy 2018–2031</i> , with a focus on creating safer and walkable neighbourhoods, and a range of viable transport options for our diverse community.	We will expand the <i>Active Schools Program</i> to at least two more schools.	
<p>Comment: Council has expanded its program and there are 13 schools participating in the <i>Active Schools</i> program. We have been supporting schools with internal active initiatives while running the annual <i>Golden Ticket</i> program, which encourages children to walk, ride or scoot to school as opposed to being driven.</p> <p>Council has secured funding from VicHealth to include healthy eating initiatives promoting social connection and support local food providers. The funding will be used to encourage further schools to participate in the <i>Active Schools — Go For Gold</i> program that will be run in October 2021.</p>		
	We will consider community reference group feedback and professional design advice in order to resolve whether the proposed Inkerman Road safe cycling corridor will proceed to tender and construction.	
<p>Comment: Following Council's decision of March 2021 to continue with the designs for the corridor, a new project plan has been prepared, anticipating recommencement of the Cycling Reference Group consultation and traffic analysis in June 2021. Traffic data collection has been delayed due to additional COVID-19 lockdown restrictions occurring in May, June and July 2021. We are anticipating the data collection can occur in August 2021 and we expect this commitment will be achieved by June 2022.</p>		

2020–21 COMMITMENT	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	RESULT
We will enable cycling to become a safe and attractive form of transportation in the municipality by implementing our <i>Cycling Action Plan</i> .	<p>We will commence implementation of at least one action from each of the three themes of our <i>Cycling Action Plan</i>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education and behaviour. 2. Policy and enforcement. 3. Infrastructure. 	✓
<p>Comment:</p> <p>1. Education and behaviour. During 2020–21 we worked to develop a plan to install a network of cyclist counters for continuous monitoring. The first site for the counters was the Djerring Trail but this has been delayed due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. We anticipate the counters will be installed in July 2021. We have continued to have conversations with schools about their interest and the timing of cycling programs.</p> <p>2. Policy and enforcement. We have developed a draft of the <i>Street Design Guidelines</i> and will continue to advocate with the State Government to maintain high-quality standards for cycling infrastructure. We have also completed — <i>The Cycling Guide</i>.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure. We have completed a draft of the <i>Bike Parking Strategy</i>. We have also worked in consultation with Chadstone Shopping Centre and City of Stonnington to connect the Djerring Trail with the Scotchman's Creek trail via Boyd Park.</p> <p>This is also a major initiative of the 2020–21 Annual Budget.</p>		
We will enable walking to become a safe and attractive form of transportation in the municipality by implementing our <i>Walking and Accessibility Action Plan</i> .	<p>We will commence implementation of at least one action from each of the three themes of our <i>Walking and Accessibility Action Plan</i>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education and behaviour. 2. Policy and enforcement. 3. Infrastructure. 	D
<p>Comment:</p> <p>1. Education and behaviour. We have continued to educate the community about the importance of walking by funding a series of initiatives and programs. The <i>Walk to School Program</i> that was due to commence in October 2020 did not proceed due to COVID-19 restrictions. We will continue to have conversations with schools about their interest and timing of walking programs to be held in Q3 and Q4 2021.</p> <p>2. Policy and enforcement. We have created a draft of the <i>Street Design Guidelines</i>.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure. Our pilot for a Pedestrian Safe Neighbourhood project that was scheduled in 2020–21 has been deferred to the 2023–24 financial year due to financial considerations.</p> <p>This is also a major initiative of the 2020–21 Annual Budget.</p>		
We will make it easier for pedestrian travel throughout the municipality by maintaining the quality and condition of our footpaths.	We will invest a minimum of \$1.8 million maintaining and improving our footpaths in prioritised locations.	✓
<p>Comment: We have invested \$1.859 million in maintaining and improving our footpaths in prioritised locations this year.</p>		

COMMITMENT 2018–19 (CARRIED OVER)

2018–19 COMMITMENT	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	RESULT
We will work with the Level Crossing Removal Authority to implement upgrade works to Neerim Road, Murrumbena in line with community feedback and Council endorsed designs.	Commence the upgrade of Neerim Road, Murrumbena streetscape works.	D
Comment: Due to the impacts of COVID-19, this project has been deferred and will be appropriately resourced in future years' budgets.		