

Designing Streets for all, Policy and Practice

**Universal Design Conference, Sydney
Town Hall**

30-31 August 2016

Contributors:

Bianca Opasinis, School Active Travel Officer
Linda Martin-Chew, Senior Strategic Policy Planner
Louie D'Amore, Team Leader Strategic Transport

What did we set out to do?

- Increase rates of school active travel through direct engagement with school communities.
- Facilitate street environments that encourage walking and cycling by addressing Council policy and practice.

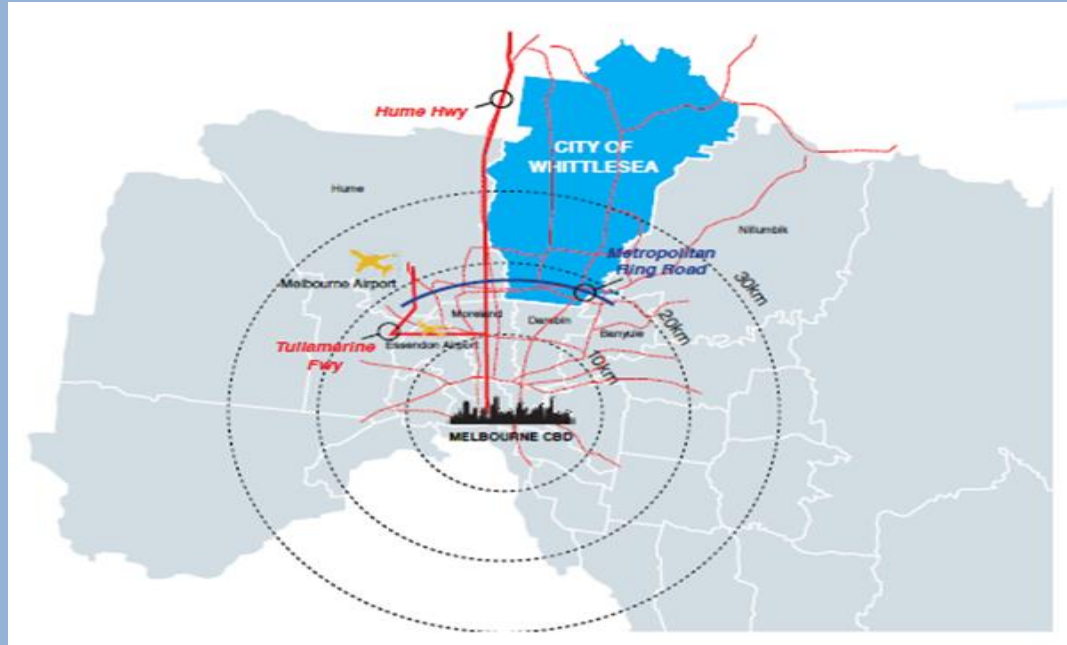


The local context...City of Whittlesea



Rapid rate of growth is producing inequities :

- Urban sprawl infrastructure gaps
- Car dominance and congestion
- Long commute times contributing to lack of social cohesion and low rates of physical activity



Why was change needed?

- City of Whittlesea residents experience higher rates of lifestyle related chronic disease, including obesity and type 2 diabetes.
- It is common for residential areas to favour vehicle movement over people movement.

Victorian Population Health Survey 2011 - 2012	Whittlesea % adults	Victoria % adults
Sedentary	9.1	5.5
Sufficient exercise	56.4	63.9
Obese	20.3	17.3
Overweight	35.1	32.5
Diagnosed Type 2 Diabetes	8.4	5.0

Who was involved?

Healthy Together Whittlesea (lead)

- Skilled health promotion workforce seeking to reduce lifestyle related chronic disease.
- Seconded an urban planner from within Council.

City Design & Transport Department

Champions across various team seeking to encourage alternative transport modes

Strategic Planning & Design Department

Championing good urban design to positively influence human behaviour and create walkable communities.

Engaging school communities



“There have been numerous road accidents near the school, parents are scared to let their kids walk”

- Al Siraat College Principal

School Active Travel Program



NORTH

Horsham Leader Leader Leader

Access Denied gains St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Catholic Parish Primary School support

KATRINA HENSCHEN WHITTLESSEA LEADER SEPTEMBER 02, 2014 12:00AM

SHARE f t in g+ ✉ 0 COMMENTS SAVE THIS STORY



Walk to School to Win

Healthy Together Whittlesea is offering cash prizes to schools registering for Walk to School this November. It's free, fun and the cash prizes up to \$1000 can help your school promote and support active travel.

1st prize - \$1500
2nd prize - \$1000
3rd prize - \$750



Prioritising Active Travel Policy

Policy objective:

To prioritise pedestrian and cycling movement in neighbourhood streets, including town centre, school and community precincts.



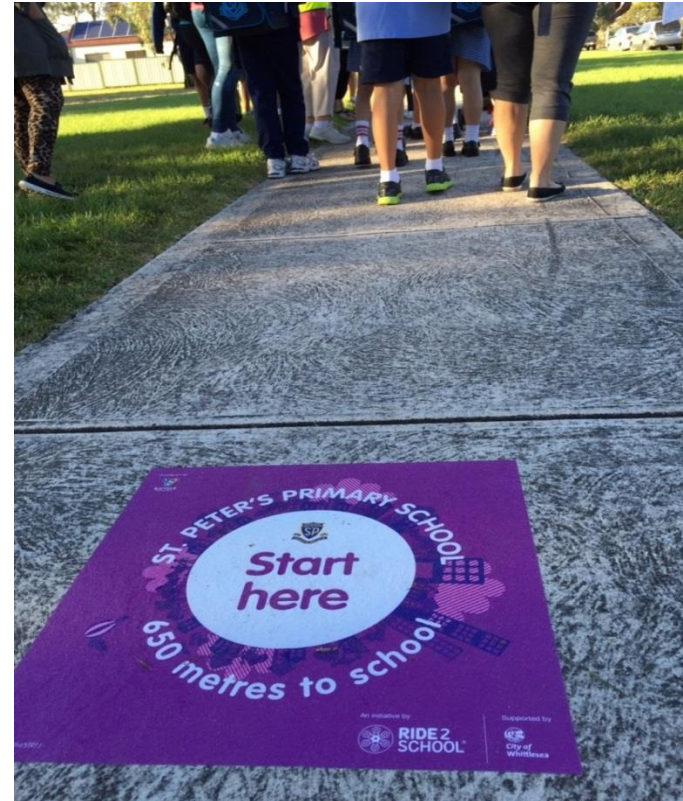
Building Support for Change

- Developed a shared “vision”, built the case for change, found local case studies.
- Reinforced the existing policy support - this is not “experimentation.” What is needed is practice change.



Achievable Commitments

- A coordinated approach across Council to encourage active living and social cohesion.
- Agreement on streetscape, traffic and transport criteria to achieve slower speeds in neighbourhood streets.
- Community Education Program.



Case Studies : The pressures of time and incremental decision making



Laurimar and
Mernda Villages
Town Centres

Mernda Villages Town Centre



Mernda Villages Town Centre – what did we learn?



- Decisions may make sense in the immediate context but have unintended outcomes:
 - Main street carriageway built to sub-arterial standard to prioritise traffic movement.
 - Early retail offering focussed town centre activity on a side street, rather than the main street.
- Legislative and technical requirements can be met, but the outcome can still fail to meet human needs - urban design is a critical element in connected and safe communities.

Laurimar Community Design:

Median street tree planting, urban squares and places, signage, built form that defines and encloses the street...



Laurimar Community Design:



... inclusive spaces that welcome all users,
highest rates of active travel to school in
Victoria...



Laurimar Community Design:

...integrated street furniture, attractive and welcoming streetscapes.



Practice change – what have we learnt?



Rapid rate of change in Growth Area Councils – a “one size fits all” approach, almost too busy to stop and think “why are we doing this”?

Legislative and technical requirements can be met, with built form still failing to meet human needs.

Universal Design Conference, Sydney Town Hall

30-31 August 2016

Questions?

