

Draft Integrated Transport Strategy

Summary document

What is the draft Whitehorse Integrated Transport Strategy?

The draft Whitehorse Integrated Transport Strategy has been developed to help shape future mobility choices over the next 20 years.

The Strategy envisions a Whitehorse that is more sustainable, connected and safer. Walking, cycling, public transport, motor vehicles, parking and freight are all considered within the draft strategy. Our population is growing. More people means more trips, whether that's by car, foot, bike, or public transport.

The Whitehorse Integrated Transport Strategy will focus on 3 key areas:

making the road network safer for all road users

supporting walking and cycling

balancing the transport needs in our growing Activity Centres

Why is it needed?

Whitehorse needs an Integrated Transport Strategy to plan for future growth in a sustainable way. The strategy will give people more travel options and help make it safer, easier and more convenient to get around.

It will also improve connections between places and support a more liveable city.

Timeframe

The time horizon for the strategy is 20 years (2046), with an interim refresh in 2036.

This will ensure Council can achieve an ambitious vision for the future of mobility in Whitehorse and offer better choices that make a real difference to our everyday transport options.

Our Vision

The vision for the Whitehorse Integrated Transport Strategy is that by 2046: *Whitehorse has a transport system that provides safe, reliable and sustainable travel choices for everyone, connecting people and places.*

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Guiding Principles

We have developed a set of guiding principles to support the strategy's vision.

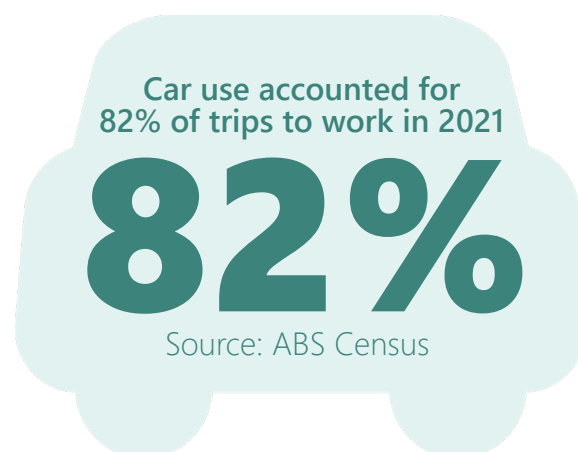
- **Choices**
Everyone can choose the transport option that works best for them.
- **Safety**
Create safer roads for everyone.
- **Climate friendly**
Reduce transport emissions.
- **Growing economy**
The transport network is efficient for people and goods.
- **Accessible for all**
The transport network provides equitable and independent travel for everyone.
- **Integration**
It's easy to move between active and public transport.

The case for change

Whitehorse is a growing city, and to accommodate population increase and the change the community wants, we need more choices for how we get around.

Trends show that the overwhelming majority of trips to work are made in motor vehicles, with a smaller number using walking, cycling and public transport.

To retain the amenity, efficiency and safety of the transport network, Council knows more cars on the road will only add to congestion. Creating more transport choices will allow people to get around by walking, cycling and public transport more often.



7 Key Challenges

Key challenges have been identified, based on stakeholder engagement, a site assessment and data analysis.

Creating more choice will allow us, as a community, to tackle our biggest transport issues including congestion, parking management, road safety and transport emissions.



Growing Population



Limited Transport Options



Traffic & Parking Congestion



Road Safety



Disconnected Active Transport



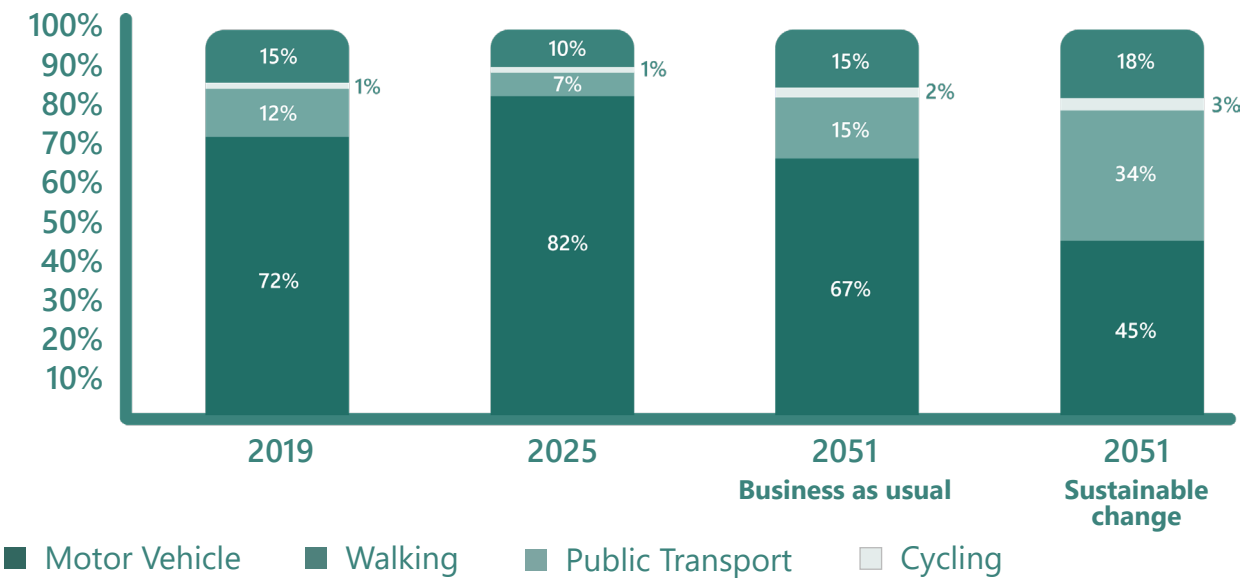
Emissions Reduction



Accessible Spaces

Opportunities to create more sustainable transport

Having transport choices beyond driving will create a more connected and liveable city. The draft strategy prioritises sustainable travel: walking, cycling and public transport use, creating ambitious and achievable targets to increase active and public transport. Our targets are shown below - they support the 2051 state-wide strategic planning and population projections. These consider Whitehorse today, what will happen if nothing changes and what a sustainable future looks like.



The sustainable scenario sees the same number of cars on the road as there are today (due to population growth) but the percentage of trips completed by active and public transport increases. This allows Whitehorse to grow more sustainably, maintaining the quality of life that attracts so many people to our municipality.

As more people live and work in Whitehorse, it is critical that people have greater options to walk, cycle and catch public transport. This will reduce the pressure on our roads and car parking and will put Whitehorse in a stronger position to deal with growth in future decades.

Strategic Objectives

The following set of strategic objectives provide Council with measurable targets, to help us evaluate progress towards a more efficient, sustainable and safer transport network:

1. 34% of trips to be made by public transport by 2051
2. 21% of trips to be made by walking and cycling by 2051
3. Increase the number of people living within 800m of frequent public transport
4. Increase the number of people living within 200m of bike infrastructure
5. Reduce road trauma for all road users
6. Lower transport emissions
7. Increase the number of accessible crossings
8. House future population close to key destinations

What we'll do

A set of focus areas and priorities has been developed to support the vision and strategic objectives and overcome the identified challenges. The focus areas and priorities below respond to the recognised need for safer, more sustainable transport choices.

Focus Areas	Priorities		
Walking	Provide more midblock signalised and unsignalised pedestrian crossings	Raised threshold treatments, pedestrian islands and reduced crossing widths	Improved lighting, shade and resting opportunities in areas with lots of pedestrians
Cycling	More high quality, continuous shared paths and protected micromobility lanes*	Link the 'Easy Ride' cycling network across major roads	Provide more bicycle parking in areas of high demand
Public transport	Advocate* for better service frequency, on weekends and evenings	Advocate for better integration so it's easier to transfer between modes	Advocate for cycling integration, including more bike parking and bike racks on buses
Road network and safety	Lower traffic volume and adopt safer speed limits along key routes, activity centres and neighbourhood streets	Better manage road and kerbside space to make best use of existing infrastructure	Better manage parking in high demand areas to improve certainty and access
Vibrant neighbourhoods	Implement the 'Movement and Place' framework when planning urban precincts	Place making efforts to encourage gathering and lingering in activity centres	Focus urban development in areas with high quality public transport links
Equal access for everyone	Review and improve footpath network for accessibility needs	Advocate* for accessible trams on Route 75, and more accessible bus and tram stops	Advocate* and plan for more accessible car parking in the community

* Micromobility includes small footprint, low speed transport devices, such as bicycles, e-bikes, and e-scooters.

* Advocate - Council will seek to influence decision-makers and partners to deliver outcomes that are outside Council's direct control

'Easy Ride' routes: a network of quieter local streets designed to make cycling safer and more comfortable, particularly for less confident riders making short local trips.

'Movement and Place Framework': balances transport needs with the needs of local communities, to guide road design and investment.

How the draft strategy aligns with our

Community Vision 2040

Theme 2: Movement and Public Spaces

Our community works best when its people can move freely and connect with each other in a healthy and safe environment.

Key priority 2.1: Create low-traffic neighbourhoods where people can move safely. We should aim to create 20-minute neighbourhoods.

Key priority 2.2: Improve access for people of all ages and abilities to a range of different active transport and movement options.

Key priority 2.3: Provide active public spaces which are accessible by all, where people feel safe and connected with others in the community.

How the draft strategy aligns with our

Integrated Council Plan 2025-2029

The draft strategy also supports the following objectives:

Strategic Direction 2: Built

Objective 2.1: Safe and accessible public spaces.

Plan for and provide safe and easy to access public spaces through better design.

Plan for and deliver transport infrastructure that supports safe and active transport uptake.

Promote local opportunities to encourage active transport throughout the City.

Objective 2.3: Sustainable planning and infrastructure to respond to population change.

The draft strategy also supports the following objectives:

Objective 1.3: A healthy and active community.

Objective 4.2: An environmentally sustainable and climate resilient City.



What we heard from the Whitehorse community

As part of the development of the draft strategy, we consulted with the community, across a range of face to face and digital platforms.

We heard the barriers that exist in the current transport system and the community's aspirations for future mobility choices in Whitehorse.

Engagement activities included:

- 3 pop-up sessions around Whitehorse
- An online survey and interactive map where users could highlight issues and places they like. A total of 265 responded to the survey and 306 locations were identified on the interactive map.
- Workshops with key stakeholders including Councillors, Council staff, community groups, adjoining councils and the Victorian Government to understand the biggest issues and opportunities for transport in Whitehorse.

What the community want

As part of our engagement, locals were asked to identify what would enhance their transport choices in Whitehorse. The key themes are summarised below:

- Improvements to intersections and crossings. Residents wanted safer crossing options, better traffic light timings and safer options for pedestrians at intersections.
- Service and frequency. Many people identified a need for improved frequencies on local public transport services. This was especially true for the bus network.
- New and upgraded infrastructure. Better infrastructure would give residents more choice to move around Whitehorse with a more diverse set of transport choices. Suggestions included: new and upgraded bus and tram stops, better street lighting, active transport infrastructure and improved road line marking.

Barriers identified by the community

The community felt that while there are a broad range of transport options available in Whitehorse, people face barriers to making the most of the network. Some key barriers include:

- A lack of opportunity to walk, cycle and take public transport.
- Missing footpaths, road crossings and integration between buses and trains.
- Poor public transport. Many people felt that the public transport network, particularly buses, ran too infrequently, or indirectly to be useful.
- Lack of safety. Road and traffic conditions and limiting safe crossings reduce people's perception of safety across many roads in Whitehorse.
- Frustration with traffic and parking in major centres.

Many of the opportunities identified by locals prioritised better local infrastructure, such as footpaths and street lighting. These small infrastructure projects often have lower costs and can deliver significant local benefits.