



City of Unley Draft Walking and Cycling Plan 2022-2027

Please accept this submission from the committee and members of the Unley BUG. This submission is prepared by the Unley BUG Committee on behalf of our 245 current members to ensure the interests of people who cycle, walk and use mobility aids in, to and through our City are met. The thoughts and concerns raised by our committee members are outlined here for your consideration.

We would like to express our **enthusiasm and support for the proposed Walking and Cycling Plan** as released for public consultation on June 30, 2022. We have all been very impressed by how comprehensive the plan is. Most of us commented how we would find an issue then it would be answered on the next page or in another section. There's little left out at all. The council team have a lot to be commended on.

Some particular highlights include (in no particular order):

- A focus on creating the 'bones' of a city-wide network that aims to provide safe access across the city, in particular in creating/strengthening east-west connections that are currently lacking.
- Clear, measurable targets for success, both for the plan overall and for individual projects.
- Consistent use of the five design principles from CROW as a yardstick by which every single project will be designed and assessed.
- Addressing the need for improved access to secure bicycle parking across the city.
- A clear, long-term and staged list of projects ready to be rolled out as funding is made available.
- The priority of establishing street design standards that support bicycle and pedestrian friendly environments has potential to be one of the most significant pieces of this plan as it will inform the shape of our streets as they come up for renewal over the coming years and decades. We are very excited about this.
 - Relatedly, the decision to target a 30km/hr design speed is **extremely positive and to be congratulated** given the safety improvements such a speed brings that are referenced in the plan. There is a growing national and international movement for 30km/hr streets, including the [#love30 campaign launched by the UN](#) at the 6th Annual Road Safety Week in 2021. We are proud that Unley continues to lead the state in road safety in this manner.

We would also like to raise the following points for your consideration in preparing the final draft of the plan:

- This is a walking and cycling plan and we would like to see more emphasis given to explaining how the walking experience will be improved. We know that the narrow, bumpy footpaths are an issue for residents in several parts of our city.

We believe that all of the necessary ingredients are already in the plan, and it is just a matter of making them a little more clear if possible. Some of the measures in the plan that will significantly improve the experience of people walking include:

- 30km/hr design speed for mixed traffic environments



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- New street design standards that support bicycle and pedestrian friendly environments, and
- A note in A.1 to explore the re-allocation of underused street space to facilitate safer walking. We would like to see this emphasised further although we appreciate the sensitive political nature that statements like this have.
- Increasing the awareness of cycling opportunities in the area. Several comments were made by our members that Unley has fantastic cycle routes already but a lot of people don't know where they are unless shown! A suggestion was made that something like a QR code on / near new bicycle parking facilities could link people to an online map of the city's cycling network.
- The inclusion of Leader St West as part of the future network. Since we first viewed the draft plan in late 2021, plans for the redevelopment of the former Le Cornu site on Anzac Highway / Leader St have been released to the public. This new development is very exciting for our area and has the potential to be an exemplar for best practice integration of active transport. It also has the potential to be a traffic and safety nightmare! Getting the infrastructure right early will be vital in making this new development a long-term success for our city.
- The map of the city's cycling network on page 10 is fantastic and should be shared more widely. However, a comment was made that this does not describe the actual condition of the bikeways 'on the ground' and that a map which shows physical infrastructure may also be helpful to less confident riders. That is, which streets have traffic calming, which have separated bikeways, which have shared use paths etc. This map does not need to form part of the plan but could be prepared in the future.

Nonwithstanding the above, the Unley BUG would like to re-iterate our support for what we believe is, on the whole, an excellent plan. We trust you will give these comments due consideration and look forward to the approval and implementation of the Plan over the next five years.

Regards,

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