

Victoria Walks Strategic Plan 2026-2030

The case for change

Victoria Walks has led the move for walkable communities since 2009. As an evidence-based health promotion charity, we influence the policies, infrastructure and investment decisions that shape whether all people can walk safely and conveniently in their everyday lives. We give a voice to all those who walk.

Walking is a systems issue, not just a personal choice. People walk when the environment enables them to do so – when streets are designed for safety, when footpaths are continuous, and when local destinations are accessible. Yet too often walking is overlooked in the decisions that shape our streets and neighbourhoods, and that comes at a cost.

We recently worked with the Victorian Government to embed a landmark target across the state's **Active Transport Plan, Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030** and **Transport Emissions Reduction Pledge**: ensuring one in four of the **16 million trips** Victorians take every day are active travel. Given walking accounts for more than 90% of active transport trips, this is a massive victory for our community.

Our focus now is on turning that policy into reality. By 2030, our goal is for walking to be a safer, more popular choice in Victoria, increasing active travel trips from 18% to 25% and halving annual pedestrian deaths from **43 to 22**, in line with the **Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030**.

Walking is so important to us as individuals, but also to our state as a whole – connecting people to public transport, supporting local economies and improving health and wellbeing. But it has not yet been treated with the priority it deserves, with little dedicated funding and accountability. Through this plan, Victoria Walks will continue to provide the evidence, amplify the voices of our community and influence the decisions that will shape our streets for generations to come.

This is a moment of opportunity. Together we can create a Victoria where walking is not only possible, but safe, easy and expected – where every person, in every neighbourhood, can step outside with confidence.



A note on language and inclusion

When we refer to 'walking' or being 'on foot', we use these terms broadly to include everyone who moves through our streets and public spaces – including people who use wheelchairs, mobility aids or other forms of assisted movement. Creating safe, accessible environments for all is central to our work. Because we know that people walk only when they feel secure, our definition of safety includes being safe and feeling safe.

Our plan at a glance

Goal

By 2030, walking will be a safer and more popular choice in Victoria, with half as many pedestrian deaths and one in four trips made by active transport.

Focus Areas



Transport

- ▶ Walking is the foundation of a functional transport network and the critical link for every public transport journey.



Liveability

- ▶ Walkable places are the bedrock of healthy, connected and vibrant communities.



Health

- ▶ Walking is the most accessible form of physical activity and a primary driver of mental and physical wellbeing.



Climate

- ▶ Increasing the share of trips made by active travel is one of the most effective and immediate ways to reduce transport emissions.



Strategies



Key activities

Advocate for the systems that enable walking

- ▶ Shape new and existing walkable communities
- ▶ Champion safer street design and speed management
- ▶ Position walking as a critical link to the public transport network

Inform decision-making through research and evidence

- ▶ Identify and prioritise opportunities for improvement
- ▶ Commission and develop research and practical tools
- ▶ Communicate evidence to inform and influence decisions

Amplify the voices and needs of people who walk

- ▶ Prioritise the needs of vulnerable communities in all walkability decisions
- ▶ Ensure diverse lived experiences are central to street design and management



Our foundations

We will maintain a high-performing, sustainable organisation with the people, systems and governance and resources required to deliver this strategy effectively.

Acknowledgement of Country

Victoria Walks acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we work and walk. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and recognise their ongoing connection to land, waters and community.

Thank you

We are grateful to everyone in Victoria who shares our passion for walking, and to our generous funders and partners who believe in the power of walkable places.

Your support is what makes our work possible. Thank you for being part of the journey.