

WALKING PLAN

2014-17



CITY OF MELBOURNE



A CONNECTED CITY

We manage movement in and around our growing city to help people trade, meet, participate and move about safely and easily, enabling our community to access all the services and opportunities the municipality offers.

CONTENTS

Foreword	2	3. Capital works	46
Executive summary	3	3.1 Addressing pedestrian crowding	46
The walking city	4	3.2 Pedestrian crossings at intersections	48
Goals	14	3.3 Master plans	50
Actions	17	3.4 Access around stations	54
1. Planning	18	3.5 Tram and bus stops	60
1.1 A central city subregion walking plan	18	3.6 Increasing the number of formal crossings	62
1.2 Use the planning scheme to improve the walking network	20	3.7 Making streets easier to cross	65
1.3 Principal pedestrian networks	21	3.8 Technical notes	66
2. Street management and operation	22	Walking plan actions	68
2.1 SmartRoads	23	Appendices	70
2.2 Signal operation	24	Appendix 1	70
2.3 Pedestrian street hierarchy	28	Appendix 2	72
2.4 Investigate Streets as Places	30	Appendix 3	75
2.5 Investigate new Walking Streets	32	Appendix 4	76
2.6 Investigate High-Mobility Walking Streets	34	Appendix 5	77
2.7 Create new shared zones	36	Appendix 6	78
2.8 Make roads safer for pedestrians	38	Bibliography	80
2.9 Walking navigation	40		
2.10 Stop lines	42		
2.11 Travel behaviour change	44		
2.12 Promote health	44		

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FOREWORD



Melbourne is Victoria's economic engine room and enjoys a vibrant social and cultural scene. Around 840,000 people pass through our city daily. This is likely to rise to more than 1.2 million by 2030. The City of Melbourne is responding to this growth with considered strategies for transport, land use and community services.

The City of Melbourne's Walking Plan is part of an integrated approach to transport, outlined in the City of Melbourne Transport Strategy 2012. It links all modes and is coordinated with city development and urban renewal.

Melbourne is a walking city with most trips to, from and within the city starting or ending on foot. In 2010, 66 per cent of trips within the municipality were walking trips. This figure is even higher in the CBD with 86 per cent of trips being on foot.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Doyle".

Robert Doyle
Lord Mayor, City of Melbourne



And this figure is set to grow as the city does which will put increasing pressure on footpaths and public transport interchanges. The safety of pedestrians is paramount and we constantly seek ways to improve this, whether through design, education or other strategies.

Walking makes economic sense: a 10 per cent increase in the connectivity of the pedestrian network in the city would add \$2.1 billion to the City of Melbourne's economy.

Our vision for Melbourne as a connected city means a place for people, a city with great streets linked by a well-designed transport system.

The Walking Plan includes strategies and actions that will ensure we keep a strong focus on the vital role that walking plays in the city and continue to improve the environment for walking.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C/O".

Cathy Oke
Chair, Transport Portfolio

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Walking is the most important mode of transport for the City of Melbourne. It accounts for 66 per cent of all trips within the municipality and is part of trips by all other modes.

The purpose of the Walking Plan is to highlight the contribution that walking makes to the municipality, while laying out a practical plan to improve the city's walking network and encourage more walking.

The walking plan aims to increase the number of walking trips in 2030 by 63 per cent from 2009 levels.

It establishes principles for planning walking in the city including priority access, safety, access for all abilities, planning for future growth, creating attractive walking environments, permeability (ability to cross streets) and reducing delay to pedestrians.

The plan will help the City of Melbourne to work with the State Government to achieve the Plan Melbourne goal of transforming the transport system to support a more productive central city. In particular it supports improving pedestrian crossing times and reducing speed limits to improve pedestrian safety.

The actions in the plan are grouped in three streams.

Planning:

- amending the Melbourne Planning Scheme to improve the walking environment.

Street management:

- changing traffic signal operation to reduce delays to pedestrians;
- increasing the number of pedestrian streets and shared zones; and
- improving legibility and way finding.

Capital works:

- extensive master planning;
- access around tram and bus stops; and
- increasing the number of road crossings.

THE WALKING CITY

The importance of walking in Melbourne

Role of walking

Walking is our most fundamental mode of transport; almost everyone walks, and walking makes up part of every journey in the city.

Walking accounts for 66 per cent of all trips within the municipality. Council has a target for this to grow to 69 per cent by 2030 (CoM, 2012, p. 17). There will be many more people visiting and

living in the City of Melbourne by 2030. The number of daily weekday city users is predicted to increase from around 840,000 today to over 1,200,000 (CoM, 2013a, p. 14). The number of walking trips is forecast to increase by 64 per cent over this same period (CoM, 2012, p. 15).

Commuting to work in Melbourne

Virtually every public transport trip begins and ends with a walking trip. The share of people commuting to

work in Melbourne by public transport has increased by 11 per cent since 2001 (ABS 2001; 2011a). Over the same period, the share of individuals walking to work has increased by 76 per cent.

Melbourne's public transport patronage grew at an average of 3.9 per cent a year from 2002 to 2012, and at 6.6 per cent a year between 2004 and 2008 (PTV, 2013, p. 4). Projections indicate that 2011 patronage will double by 2029, meaning that there will also be many more people walking to tram stops and train stations in Melbourne.

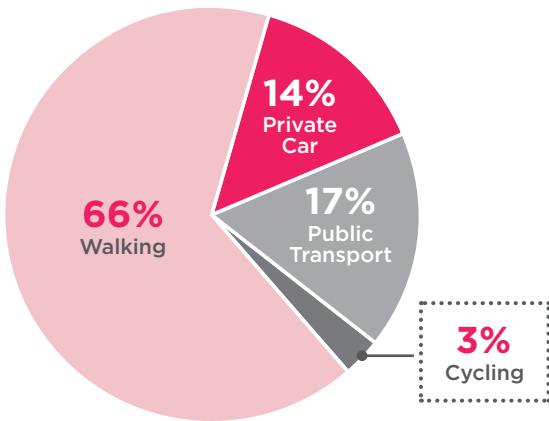


Figure 1: Trips within the City of Melbourne by mode, average weekday, 2009/10. (Source: DoT, 2010)

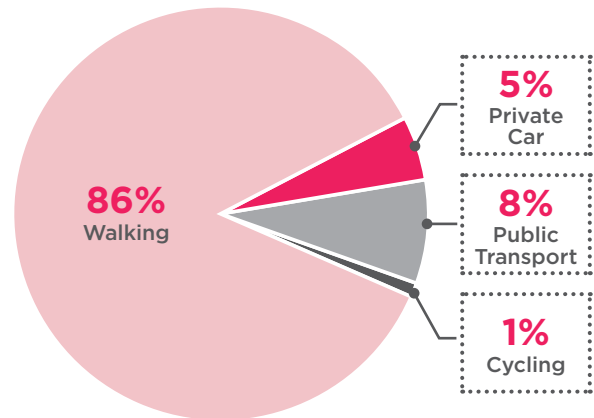


Figure 2: Trips within the Hoddle Grid and Docklands by mode, average weekday, 2009/10. (Source: DoT, 2010)

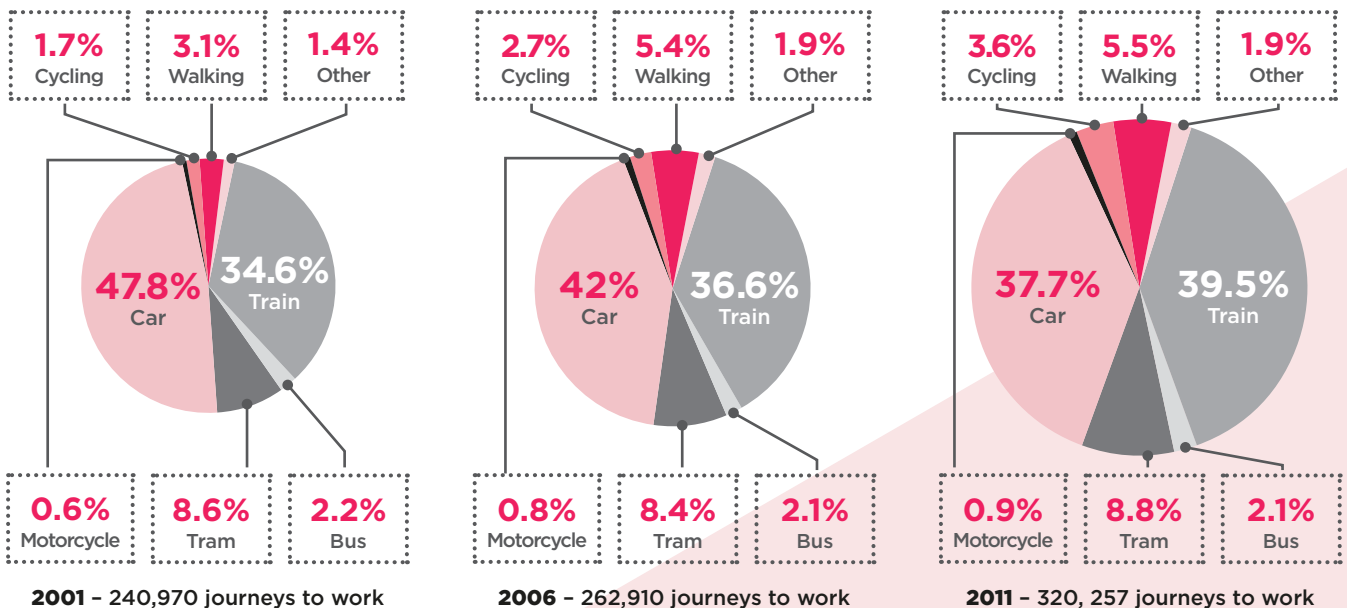


Figure 3: Method of travel to work in the City of Melbourne, 2001, 2006, 2011 (Source: ABS, 2011a; 2006; 2001)

Pedestrian accessibility provided by the walking network

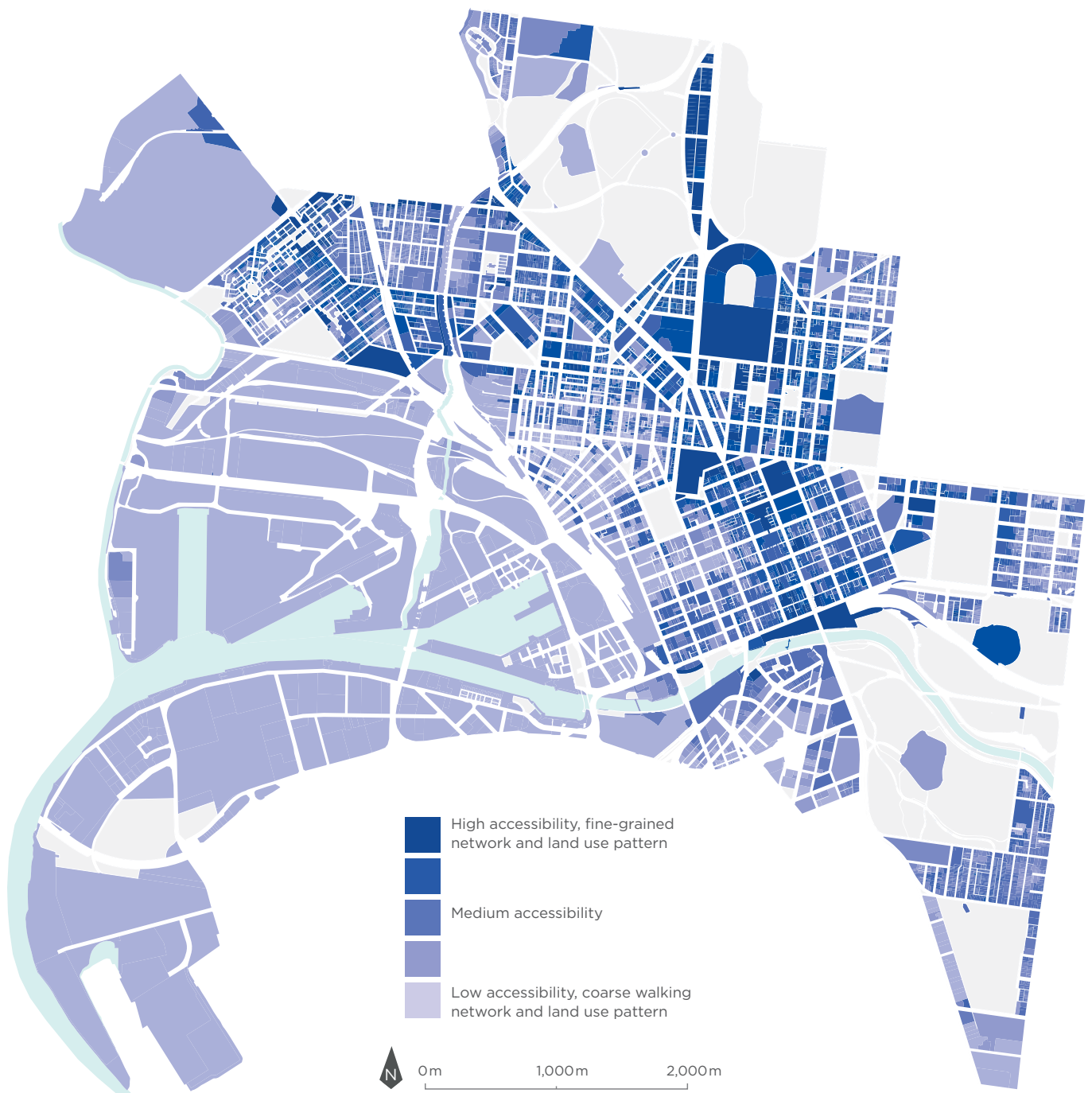


Figure 4: Pedestrian accessibility provided by the walking network.

This map shows how well each property is connected to other areas via the walking network based on walking time. Areas with greater permeability – more streets – laneways – smaller block sizes and parkland – result in higher levels of pedestrian accessibility.

THE WALKING CITY

The walking economy

Walking trips are important for the economy. About 63 per cent of trips made within the City of Melbourne for a work purpose are on foot (DoT, 2010). Walking is the primary mode for shopping, tourism and city visitors (DoT, 2010). Walking has also grown as more people have come to live in the municipality – 35 per cent of residents of the Hoddle Grid and 34 per cent of Southbank residents walk to work (ABS, 2011b).

Walking and agglomeration

Central business and retail precincts in large cities, such as in the Hoddle Grid and the expanded central city in Docklands and Southbank, foster connections within the central city community. These connections generate knowledge which circulates through both formal and informal links, and from this knowledge income is generated. Much of this knowledge transfer takes place face to face and is often the result of a walking trip within the central city. This is why dense city centres are so important to the economic prosperity of cities and nations. The large number of people located in close proximity to each other allows ideas to be quickly generated, refined into knowledge and put to work solving complex problems. There is a strong relationship between connectivity and productivity. This relationship is referred to as agglomeration economies.

Analysis of the impact of walking on agglomeration has found that if the walking connectivity within the Hoddle Grid was increased by 10 per cent, the value of the economy of the Hoddle Grid would be increased by up to \$2.1 billion per annum. This represents a 6.6 per cent increase in the value of the current economy (SGS, 2013, p. 2).

Agglomeration can be measured using Effective Job Density (EJD). Figure 5 shows the EJD provided by the walking network; that connectivity across the walking network contributes to the economy of the City of Melbourne.

Areas with darker colours represent both a richer walking network and a higher concentration of employment and economic activity. This measure of EJD is based on the number of jobs (working people) that can be reached within 30 minutes by walking on the pedestrian network (scaled by the time it takes to reach them).

Walking connectivity contributes to EJD by supporting knowledge transfer. The connectivity of the walking network across the City of Melbourne is shown in Figure 4, demonstrating how well each land parcel is connected to other land parcels. It shows the amount of land that can be reached by a 30-minute walk, divided by how long it takes to reach each of the land parcels within the 30-minute catchment.

Attractive streetscapes enhance the city experience

A high-quality walking environment is key to delivering on the vision of the city's retail and hospitality strategies. Walking is low cost, environmentally sustainable and promotes physical and mental health. As a mode of transport, walking is also the main mode of transport for tourists and visitors for events. However, one of the main problems reported by visitors to Melbourne is the difficulty of walking around the city due to narrow footpaths or delays at signals (Destination Melbourne, 2010, p. 60).

Policy background

There is a significant policy background supporting the goals of this plan including documents from the Commonwealth and State governments as well as the City of Melbourne. Details of these documents are available in Appendix 4.

Economic impact of the walking network

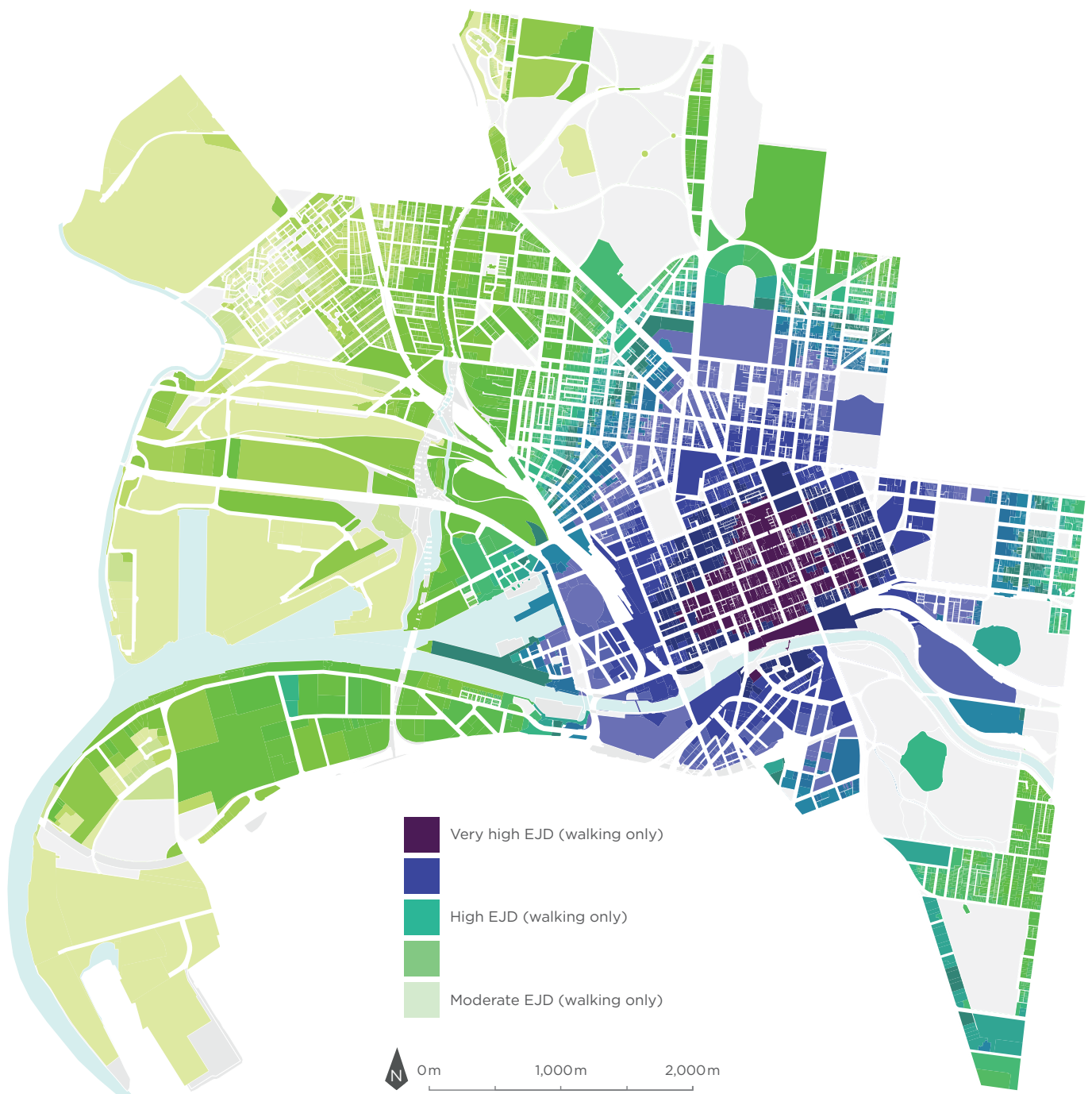


Figure 5: Effective Job Density (EJD) provided by the walking network

This map shows the connectivity across the walking network and its contribution to the economy of the City of Melbourne. Areas with darker colours represent both a richer walking network and a higher concentration of employment and economic activity. This measure of EJD is based on the number of jobs (working people) that can be reached within 30 minutes by walking on the pedestrian network (scaled by the time it takes to reach them).

THE WALKING CITY

Achievements to date

Walking environment

For more than 30 years the City of Melbourne has been transforming the municipality's walking environment. Melbourne's iconic Bourke Street Mall opened officially in 1983. Guided by the Places for People studies in 1994 and 2005, the City of Melbourne has widened footpaths, laid high quality pavements, encouraged outdoor dining and reduced traffic signal cycle times to support improvements to public transport to make Melbourne a more attractive place to be.

The city has increased pedestrian safety and level of service with:

- Widened footpaths, especially in areas of high pedestrian use, such as approaching train stations;
- Creation of Bourke Street Mall and transformation of Swanston Street into a pre-eminent civic space;
- High-quality pedestrian environments including bluestone paving, trees and street furniture;
- Level access trams stops;
- Signalised pedestrian and zebra crossings;
- Safe staging points for pedestrians to cross busy roads;
- Reductions in traffic signal waiting times especially in the central city;
- Extending the time that walk signals are displayed to give pedestrians a longer window in which to cross at signals;
- Shared zones with speed limits reduced to 10 km/h, which allow pedestrians and drivers to share the road and make more efficient use of space;
- 30 km/h and 40 km/h speed limits in key pedestrian streets;
- A speed limit in the central city of 40 km/h;

- Conversion of laneways to active uses including retail and hospitality;
- Negotiating laneways to be built in new developments;
- Conversion of underused road space to pedestrian use, such as removing slip lanes;
- Enhancement of existing public spaces, such as City Square in 2000 and the creation of new spaces such as Queensbridge Square in 2006;
- Signal cycle time reductions at Spencer and King streets to reduce pedestrian wait times and crowding;
- Painted pedestrian medians on Toorak Road, Errol Street and Victoria Street; and
- Expanding the amount of footpath space by 160,000 square metres or nearly 15 per cent since 2007, from 1,107,627 square metres to 1,270,793 square metres in 2012.

Walk 21 Charter

In 2008 the City of Melbourne became a signatory to the Walk21 International Charter for Walking. This requires the city to 'work with others to create a culture where people choose to walk' (Walk21, 2006) through the following strategic principles:

- increased inclusive mobility;
- well-designed and well-managed spaces and places for people;
- improved integration of networks;
- supportive land-use and spatial planning;
- reduced road danger;
- less crime and fear of crime;
- more supportive authorities; and
- a culture of walking.



THE WALKING CITY

Challenges for walking in Melbourne

Growth

The City of Melbourne will experience significant increases in residential and employment populations which will result in more people walking in the municipality.

Some key footpaths in the city are already routinely overcrowded with people forced to walk on the roadway. The volume of pedestrian traffic in Melbourne will rise as the city grows from about 844,000 daily visitors in 2012 to 1.256 million per day in 2030 (CoM, 2013a, p. 14). The central city is expanding into urban renewal areas including Southbank, Docklands, Fishermans Bend, City North and Arden-Macaulay. Figure 7 shows where growth will be concentrated. These areas need to be designed to offer similar levels of walkability to that currently experienced in the central city.

Crowding and delay

Crowding is already a significant issue for the walking network in Melbourne and city growth will exacerbate this. Locations where crowding occurs include in and around public transport stops and stations and in areas of the retail core of the city, such as Swanston Street.

Crowding discourages people from walking, creates delays which waste time and money and undermines Melbourne's international reputation for liveability. It can 'squeeze out' other normal functions of a footpath, such as socialising, window shopping or enjoying a space, and it can undermine retail and hospitality experiences. Overcrowding and delays that result from waiting at intersections can cause annoyance and discourage people from returning to the city.

Traffic congestion in Melbourne costs the city's economy \$3 billion a year. This is projected to rise to \$6 billion by 2020 (BTRE, 2007, p. 13). A significant amount of traffic congestion experienced in Melbourne is suffered by people walking, especially through delays at traffic lights or other crossings.

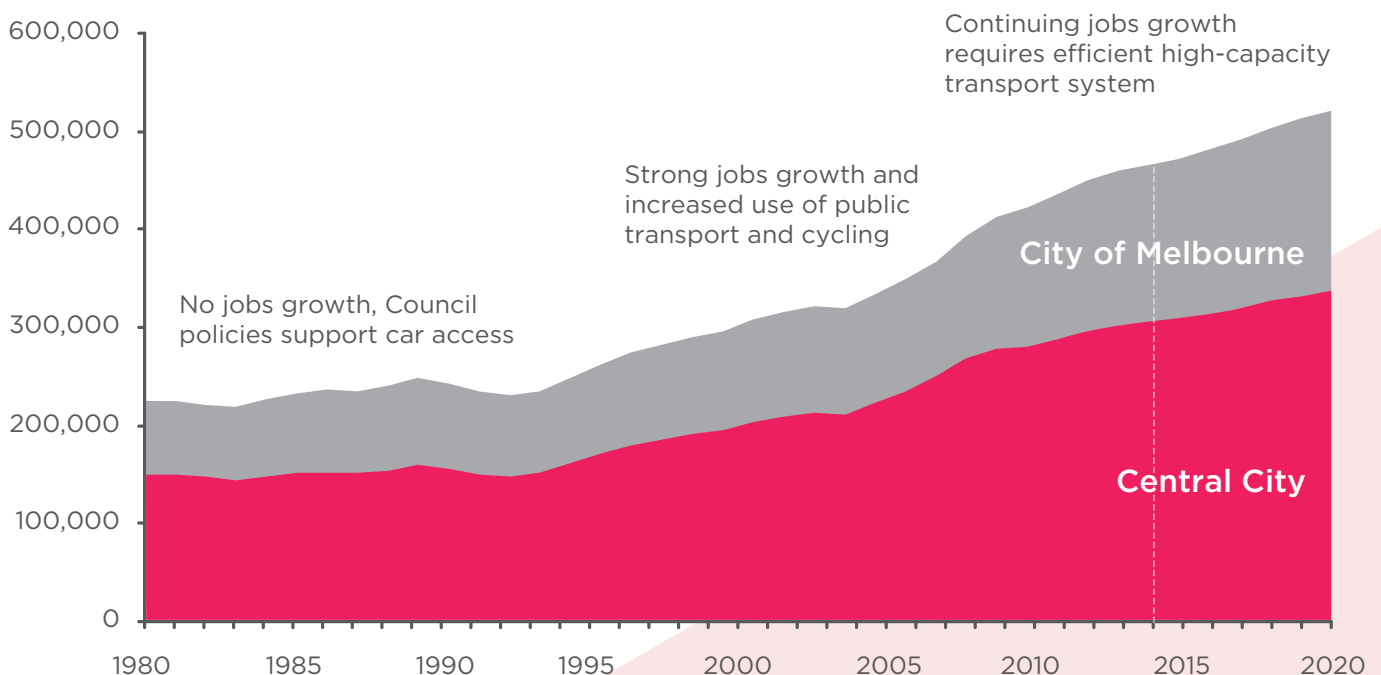


Figure 6: City of Melbourne jobs growth, 1980 to 2020