



YOUR CITY: YOUR SPACE

YOUNG PEOPLE HELPING TO MAKE MELBOURNE A SAFER CITY

The Your City Your Space project shows how the City of Melbourne listens to young people and acts on their advice.



CITY OF MELBOURNE



WHAT WE DID...

October 2008	Melbourne hosts City Safe Summit
March 09	Young people meet the Chief Executive
June 2009	Youth Safety Committee formed
September - December 09	Online forum
January - March 09	Analysis of responses
April 10	Proposals put before Melbourne City Council
April 10	100% sign off on proposals
May 10 - June 12	Action plans produced: projects undertaken
	Young people benefit from a safer city

YOUNG PEOPLE VOICE THEIR OPINIONS

This project began with the City Safety Summit in October 2008, when we asked 80 stakeholder groups how they thought we could make the city a safer place for young people.

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Everyone had ideas but of course it was best to ask 12 to 25-year-olds what they thought.

In March 2009, City of Melbourne Chief Executive Kathy Alexander met with 10 young people. We then launched a Youth Safety Committee in June 2009.

Members included representatives from the Australian Federation of International Students, National Union of Students, Step Back Think Campaign, Victorian Indigenous Youth Advisory Council and Youth Disability Advisory Service.

We wanted to make the discussion open to every young person who lives, studies and works in the city. We set up an online forum for 10 weeks from September to December 2009, supported by a marketing campaign encouraging people to participate.

We used social networks to push the message out across the city: Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, plus email alerts to youth networks and links to Victorian, local government and community websites. We also printed posters and postcards, talked to the press about it and advertised on community radio.

There was a competition for the best video clip about Melbourne as a safe city submitted via the website.

Young people had to register to post their ideas and vote on possible solutions. We had 164 sign up and contribute, and many more – nearly 2,500 – visited the site to check out what was being said. The 164 participants came from 89 different suburbs, giving us a good overview of what young people felt about making it a safer place.

FEEDBACK FROM THE ONLINE FORUM

We grouped the forum responses under 11 headings:

drugs and alcohol

motor vehicle safety

pedestrian and cyclist safety

personal safety

policing and security

public transport

sexual harassment

sports safety

venues and spaces

violence

'other'



From the posts made by members, the number of times each theme was viewed, and the votes cast, we were able to identify the top five issues.

Likewise, of the 35 solutions proposed by young people, we were able to identify the top five.

Visit the website www.yourcityspace.com.au

The City of Melbourne thanks all the young people who took part in the Your City: Your Space project and contributed to the online forum

CITY OF MELBOURNE
YOUR CITY: YOUR SPACE
MAKING YOUR CITY SAFER

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forum login Username Password login
Forgot your password or username?

Melbourne Speaks

The flicks competition winner is 'Stop-motion on Jaywalking' by Julian and Melissa

Latest Posts

Re: Late night public transport for Friday and Sat...
I think it would be a good idea if the timetables between train/tram and bus were more co-ordinated...
by Alex 07-Dec-09, 04:38pm

Re: Usable streets
Honestly I think you'd have to be very careful about the mix of bikes and traffic in the city. Maybe...
by Alex 06-Dec-09, 02:10pm

Re: too much drunken violence.
I don't think increasing taxes will do much good. At the end of the day its upto peoples responsibil...
by Alex 06-Dec-09, 02:04pm

Youth should learn to avoid these situations

This Forum is Closed

The Your City: Your Space forum has closed for posting, but you can still view all the ideas that were contributed over the 12 week duration. City of Melbourne is committed to implementing one or more of the top five solutions that you have proposed. We have started to look at your comments and we will provide you with a comprehensive response on how this will be incorporated into Council policy. Check out the City of Melbourne website for the full report in early 2010.

The lucky winner of the iPhone is stepanka

Your Top 5 Issues **VOTE NOW**

THE TOP FIVE ISSUES

1. Common sense

Young people said common sense was important – avoiding areas with a reputation for trouble; being with friends who look out for each other.

Best bet is to probably make sure you are with people you know, sticking to places you know, staying away from trouble areas and making sure that you are still sober enough to be able to head home any time you want.

2. Late night public transport on Friday and Saturday nights

Young people told us there were problems with the Night Rider bus service.

They don't depart frequently enough. There are not enough clear signs showing where they even leave from.

No-one knows where and when the Night Rider runs to and from but everyone knows where the train station is in their suburb.

People said they would prefer to travel by train or tram.

What I would prefer is to have the tram system running 24/7. Even if from 1am they only run every hour, that would be enough.

I always feel so much better catching a train rather than a bus and the Night Riders can be one of the worst buses to catch ... Really what they need is a 24/7 train service.

3. 'Chromers' on trams and trains

Forum members told us they were worried about people who inhaled chemicals while riding on public transport and the absence of staff to tackle the problems that resulted.

There are all these ticket inspectors during the middle of the day in the city but in the late afternoons and early evenings in the suburbs, where these things are more likely to happen, they are nowhere to be seen.

4. Violence on public transport

Several young people said they had witnessed incidents of violence and vandalism on public transport, especially trains. They commented on the lack of people in authority – police, security or transport staff; poor lighting in and around stations; alcohol-consumption on platforms.

Unprovoked violence was another problem, and responsible young people were not sure how to help victims or report what they had seen.

I've witnessed a few teens be violent to someone from a school near me. I wanted to help but because I'm so small, I can't really do anything useful.

5. Boredom

This focused on the lack of alcohol-free activities for young people, as an alternative to nightclubs.

What interesting things are there to do at 2 or 3am besides going to nightclubs? Not much!"

Many 'interesting' things cost a lot – too much for every weekend.

Other issues

Young people said that there was a culture of alcohol-fuelled violence in the city. They talked about responsible drinking and the importance of looking after your friends.

Pedestrian and cyclist safety was also a major concern.

THE TOP FIVE SOLUTIONS



1. More bicycle lanes and parking

Dedicated, unobstructed bike lanes; more allocated bike parking; bike-friendly routes and bicycle-free parks or parks with special bicycle lanes were among the suggestions.

Bike parking would be a perfect replacement for car parking in places like Flinders Lane.

Many cyclists riding their bikes in city parks and gardens are riding with excess speed, endangering the lives of pedestrians and other park users, especially children.

Cyclists are able to provide extra passive surveillance when they are commuting through the area of an evening and therefore provide a better sense of security for other pedestrians and park-users of an evening.

2. Increase protection for young people

Opinions varied about whether learning self-defence techniques helped, or could potentially escalate a dangerous situation.

As someone who has trained in martial arts and as a small-framed female, my best form of self-defence is often screaming and running as I am aware a large guy or girl, especially one with a weapon, would still overpower me.

Participants asked for more drug-free and alcohol-free events; greater use of CCTV cameras, security staff and police for protection, and opportunities for young people to help each other through a youth-led campaign to tackle violence.

3. Reduce 'chromers' on trams

The majority of young people who commented on this issue agreed that the only effective way to deal with it was to increase the number of officials patrolling public transport.

We definitely need more proper conductors to give the transport system a 'face'. By giving the community confidence in a safe system, they are likely to use it more.

4. Reduce violence on public transport

Young people wanted staff to be more visible on the platforms, with improved lighting and camera systems in and around stations.

Every station should be manned, and not just by someone behind a counter, the officers should be there on the platforms. It might cost a bit, but safety should not be compromised because of cash. People would probably be more inclined to use public transport at night if it could be made safer.

5. More late-night public transport

Solutions included a 24/7 tram and train service; an improved transport system with trains every hour on Friday and Saturday nights; two-hour tickets validated after 6pm should expire at 4am to reduce incidences of fare evasion, and timetables across the whole transport network should be coordinated.

I love Melbourne and I would love it even more with a 24/7 train service.

I think it would be a good idea if the timetables between train, tram and bus were more coordinated. We all hate having to wait for these connections. Many bus and tram stops have still not been updated with the real time displays. Maybe if each stop had an SMS number that you can text and find out the time 'til the next service?

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. More allocated bike parking

Research to identify locations in the City of Melbourne where additional bike parking is needed. Research and better links to the bike path network and the ways cyclists use the city.

Cost \$35,000.

2. Education campaign to remind motorists to be aware of cyclists

Develop a motorist and cyclist education program that incorporates safe cycling messages and promotes understanding for both motorists and cyclists.

Cost \$10,000.

3. Youth-led campaign relating to late-night violence in the city

Work with the Salvation Army to develop a two-year Youth Street Teams program to operate on Friday and Saturday nights in the city.

The teams will provide after-hours information and practical assistance to young people on the street and around licensed venues in the city.

Cost \$160,000 for two years.

4. More officials patrolling public transport

Continue to advocate for a review of the public transport system to explore ways of reducing violence at stations and on trams, trains and buses, especially at night and on weekends.

Cost \$0.

5. Provide drug-free and alcohol-free events for young people at night

Develop a range of events and activities for young people at night in key locations around the city, aligned with the City of Melbourne *Policy for a 24 Hour City*.

Cost \$50,000.

WHAT WE WILL DO NEXT



At the launch of the Your City: Your Space project, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle committed to fulfilling at least one of the key recommendations. At a Council meeting in April 2010, the City of Melbourne Councillors agreed to all five recommendations.

This means a \$255,000 investment over the next two years in making Melbourne a safer place for young people.

The next stage is to develop an action plan for each of the five projects which will start in May 2010.

SOME THINGS THAT ALREADY MAKE MELBOURNE A SAFER PLACE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

121km of bicycle paths around the city

2008: 28 more cycle parking spaces in Lygon Street

Bike Pod shower and changing facilities at City Square

Dedicated bike lane in Swanston Street

Travel Smart maps showing bike routes and safety information

City of Melbourne *Bicycle Plan 2007-2009*

Dedicated bicycle lane in Albert Street

Designated cycle paths in city parks

Cycling restrictions in city gardens

Green band and profiled pavement edges for cycle lanes

Police Bicycle Unit and general police enforcing traffic laws

International Bike Film Festival 2009

Road Harmony Short Film Festival 2009

A Metre Matters campaign for drivers to give cyclists space

Martial Arts Therapy Program at Croydon Community School

City of Melbourne *Policy for the 24 Hour City*

Signal Youth Space for alcohol-free creative events

Late night exhibitions at the National Gallery of Victoria

Private underage events approved for licensed premises

Safe Streets: increase in police officers in the CBD on Friday nights

Operation Razon: police checks on licensed premises

Liquor Control Reform Act: increased police powers

Victoria Police developing a future Public Order strategy

Licensees Safety Summit 2009

Number of Safe City cameras more than doubled in 2009 to 54

Guidelines developed for CCTV monitoring inside venues

Do you have a question for the City of Melbourne?

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Please provide written feedback to:
www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/contactus

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April 2010

www.melbourne.vic.gov.au



CITY OF MELBOURNE

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Step Back Think campaign
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Flinders Street Station Police Booth manned until 2am on weekends
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Metro Trains Customer Service Officers on platforms
.....

Authorised Officers patrol stations and trains
.....

City of Melbourne staff at four Safe City taxi ranks
.....

Victoria Police Transit Unit fitness program for chromers
.....

Championship Moves program targeting anti-social behaviour
.....

Grogger (Don't Get Smashed) pedestrian safety campaign
.....

Association of Liquor Licensees No Excuses campaign
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City of Melbourne youth services contracts
.....

Operation Omni: new police search powers for weapons
.....

Operation Fuel: police target alcohol-drinking on public transport
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Operation Trojan: police drug detection at stations
.....

24 hour train service activated during special events
.....

City of Melbourne Public Transport Strategy review
.....

City of Melbourne Safe City Transport Committee
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Real-time timetable available by SMS from Metro Trains
.....

Tram tracker SMS service available for trams
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Metlink website journey planner
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Public transport improvements for Swanston Street
.....

Increased frequency and extra services for the Night Rider bus
.....

On the Move safety flyer
.....