Living Locally -
Activating Sunshine West

20-Minute Neighbourhood Pilot Program
20-Minute neighbourhoods

Plan Melbourne 2017–2050 is underpinned by the principle, direction and policies of 20-minute neighbourhoods. The 20-minute neighbourhood is all about ‘living locally’ — giving people the ability to meet most of their daily needs within a 20-minute walk from home, with access to safe cycling and local transport options.

The 20-minute neighbourhood pilot program was launched to test the practical delivery of 20-minute neighbourhoods through place based planning. Sunshine West was a pilot site and the project pilot concluded in March 2019.

Purpose of the plans

The plans are the first step in the development of Sunshine West as a 20-minute neighbourhood and respond to issues raised in the pilot.

These activations will also deliver on a number of the government’s policy objectives in planning, health, transport, crime, safety and economic development.

The potential temporary activations provide an opportunity to trial possible permanent interventions, but also respond quickly to the COVID-19 recovery process through low cost and easy to implement activations that support local traders and the community.

The strategic opportunities plan features longer term permanent changes, which encourage walking and cycling, along with a transformational amenity lift to the centre.

Community priorities for Sunshine West

A community partnership approach underpinned the pilot project, responding to the need to strengthen community participation in planning for our neighbourhoods.

As a result of extensive consultation, the Sunshine West community identified opportunities to improve liveability in Sunshine West. Community priorities included improvements to:
- public open space - playgrounds and parks
- pedestrian safety - safe crossings
- streetscape - lighting, art, seats and greening
- active transport - bike lanes and accessible footpaths
- retail and businesses - retail diversity and on-street trading.

Read the Sunshine West report for a detailed summary of the community consultation.

Sunshine West context

The Sunshine West activity centre is Glengala Village, located approximately 13km from Melbourne CBD and approximately 2km from Sunshine in Brimbank City Council.

While Sunshine West has a mix of businesses, including a chemist, casual dining and fresh food grocer, many residents drive to Sunshine to meet their daily needs. Sunshine West is a multicultural neighbourhood that has the potential to provide the services and destinations to support the community to shop and live locally.

Supporting Glengala recover from COVID-19

20-minute neighbourhoods are becoming increasingly important, as many people have been working remotely and using local services, like parks and local shops.

Local shops will need assistance to recover, to support them to reconnect with their customers as many have been closed for a long period.

Safe retail environments are likely to accommodate physical distancing for the foreseeable future, with increased pedestrian, cycling and customer space. This means re-allocating road space in priority locations.

In order to safely move around the neighbourhood to access essential services, exercise and support the local economy of Glengala Village, 20-minute neighbourhoods is an established framework which can be used to deliver immediate assistance. This project also supports the creation of jobs through construction of infrastructure.
Sunshine West Temporary Activations

Potential temporary interventions for further consideration that respond to the community, test permanent works, support the traders and create for more space in response to COVID-19 recovery.

Greening the street
Pot plants and temporary landscaping to soften the street

Space for walking and street trading
Parklets test how we use space for people, rather than cars, gives more land for trading and dining on the street, and provides opportunity for landscaping and art.

Traffic calming
Engage an artist or the community to paint the road, creating a vibrant sense of arrival and traffic calming treatment.

Pop-up parks
A new space for gathering, temporary events, play and dining (such as food trucks or other events), helping to enhance the area as a destination.

Encouraging cycling
Bike parking throughout the centre and repair facilities.

Prioritising walking
Temporary painted pedestrian crossings emphasising pedestrian priority.

Co-working and meeting
Potential iHARVEST pop up - Community working and meeting spaces in Glengala Hall

Economic stimulus
Support current council activities such as visual merchandising and shop front improvements and business grants.
Sunshine West Strategic Opportunities

The longer term strategic opportunities identify potential interventions that are based on community priorities, raised during community consultation in the pilot project. Below is an artist impression illustrating how the centre could look if these opportunities are implemented.
Sunshine West Strategic Opportunities

The potential interventions were informed by a workshop held on site with multiple council service delivery areas. The artist impressions below illustrate possible opportunities, which will be tested further with the community.

Increased footpath/trading
Increased pedestrian space on both sides of the street for trading, dining on the street, landscaping and public art.

Textured road treatment
Textured road pattern to calm traffic and create a sense of arrival.

Green and lush
Canopy trees and landscaping to green the street.

Encouraging cycling
Bike parking throughout the centre and repair facilities.

Pedestrian crossings
Raised pedestrian crossings to improve accessibility and pedestrian safety.

Relocate bus stop
Relocated bus stop and shelter with traffic calming measures to increase space in the village.
Castley Reserve Strategic Opportunities

The Castley Reserve plan was developed following the 20-minute neighbourhood pilot program. It includes a walking trail around the reserve, walkability improvements and amenity upgrades along Simmie Street, creating a safe link from the centre to Sunshine Heights Primary School. Opportunities in this plan will be subject to further community consultation.
Supporting safe access to local schools

Priority active transport routes for local schools

As schools start to reopen, it is critical that safe walking and cycling routes are accessible around local schools and community infrastructure. This is also important for a successful 20-minute neighbourhood, where people, including students, find it easy to walk and cycle.

This map identifies schools within a 20-minute walk from Glengala Village. Temporary pedestrian and cycling routes could be established on local streets to enable safe active transport trips from home, with links to key areas, such as cycling trails, local parks and the local shops.

Safe school zones on the street facing the school entrance should also be considered.

Mailey St - Sunshine Heights Primary School