



Whittlesea Integrated Transport Plan

Background Paper, Summary

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Institute for
Sensible Transport



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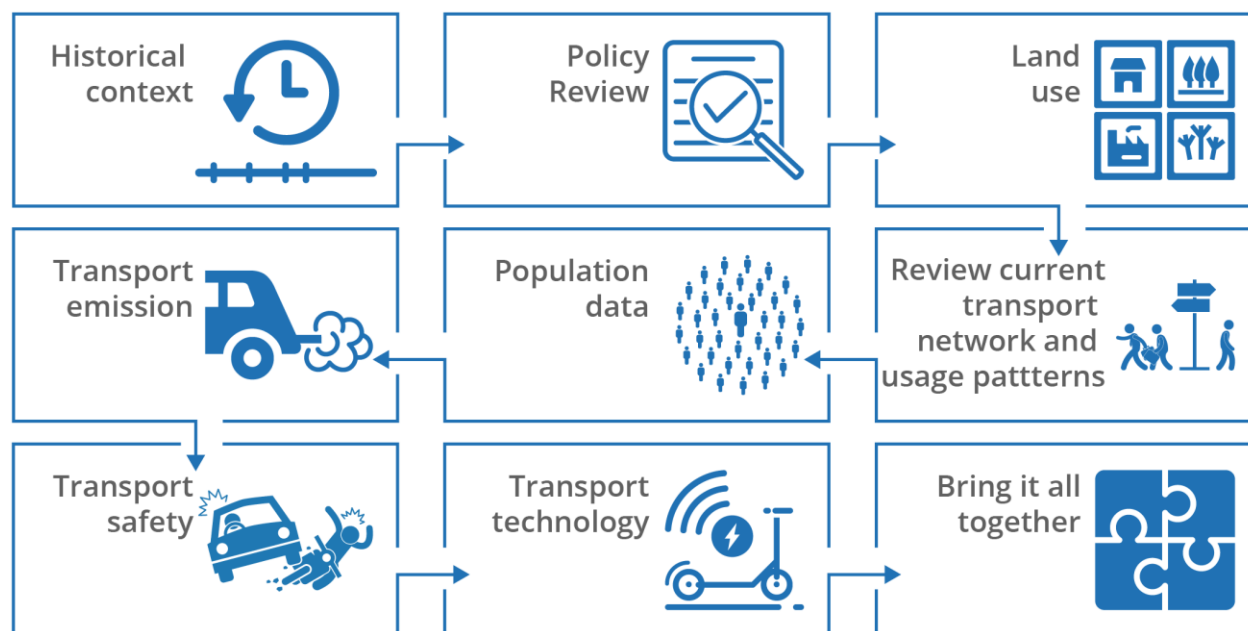
Background Paper - Summary



This report offers an analysis of background policy and data relevant to Council as it begins the process of developing its new Integrated Transport Plan (ITP). This is the first of two reports delivered as part of this project. Following this *Background paper*, a *Directions paper* will be produced, intended to guide Council in the development of their in-house ITP.

What does this report cover?

This report provides an analysis of material relevant to Council as it seeks to renew its ITP. This report provides material on eight distinct topics, as identified in the graphic below.



This report provides an analysis of the policy and transport landscape in Whittlesea.

An analysis of the policy and transport landscape in Whittlesea provides a snapshot of the strategic context. By understanding the key themes within Council's strategic planning documents, demographic features and forecasts, as well as land use changes, Council will be in a strong position to develop its own ITP. This report has also examined transport emissions and safety issues in Whittlesea, helping to draw out some of the key challenges the new ITP will need to address. Finally, major changes in transport technology have taken place since the past ITP was developed, almost ten years ago. Ensuring the new ITP is future focused will help Whittlesea achieve its long term objectives. Capitalising on the emergence of smaller, cleaner and more efficient methods of travel, such as electric vehicles and e-bikes, as well as shared transport will help the Whittlesea community meet its mobility needs in a more sustainable way.

Key findings

Policy review

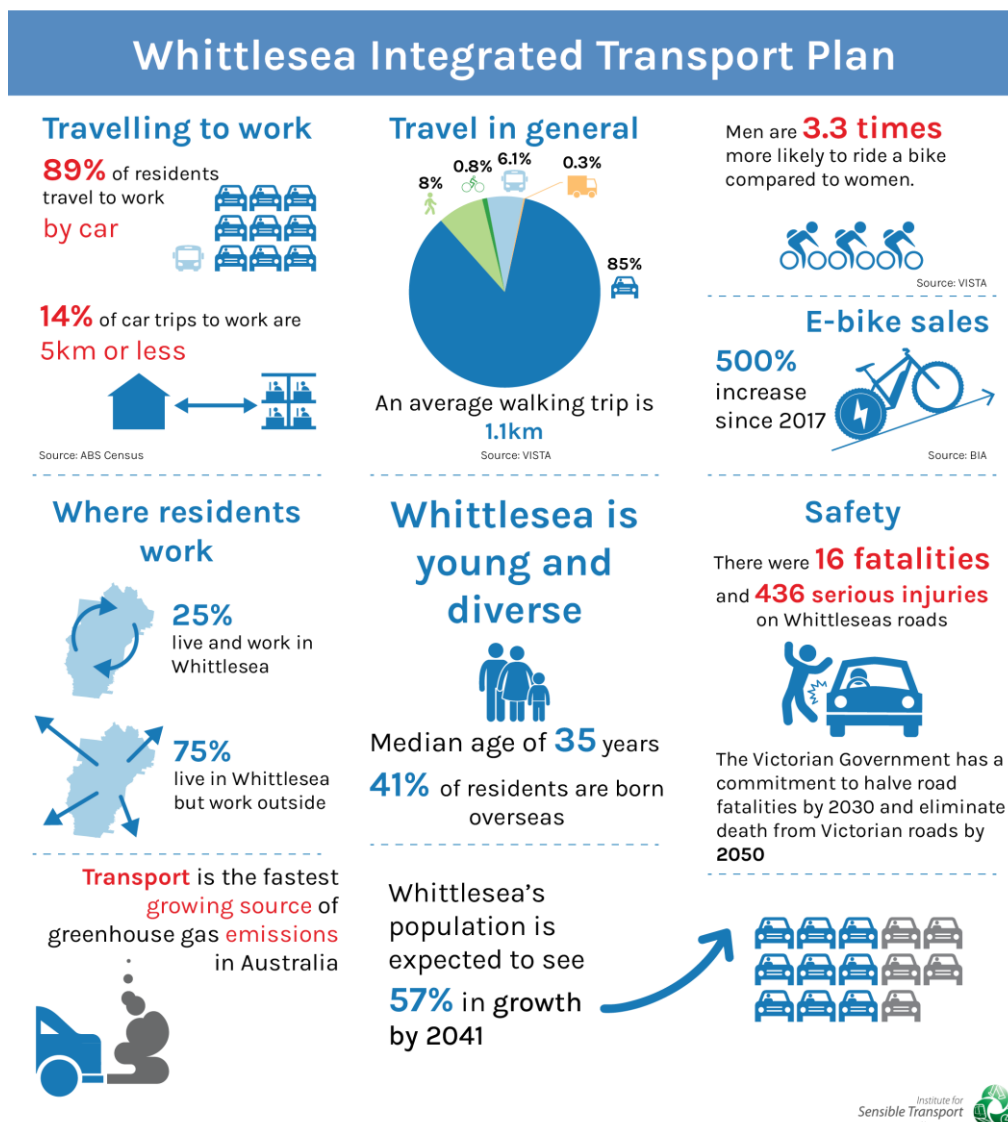
The review of Whittlesea's policies and strategies have revealed that there is a strong desire for Council and the community to achieve a more sustainable, vibrant and healthy City in the future, with less reliance on motor vehicles. Creating liveable neighbourhoods, a strong economy and a sustainable society are core features embedded within the Council policies reviewed as part of this report.

Many of the state and Commonwealth policies are also supportive of a more sustainable future in which more attention is placed high quality urban spaces, and more trips to meet day-to-day needs are able to be done within a short distance from people's homes, by sustainable forms of transport.

The need for a safe climate and provide people with a greater diversity of transport options are two key themes to arise from the review of Council's existing policy.

Travel patterns and transport data

A snapshot of key findings from the analysis of travel patterns in Whittlesea is shown below.



The key theme to emerge from the data presented in the graphic above is that Whittlesea has a transport system dominated by car use. An almost 60% increase in population is forecast by 2041. If significant steps are not taken to increase the diversity of transport options, Whittlesea may become a less vibrant place to live and work. Council has set a target to grow walking and cycling, to 25% of all trips by 2030, up from 9% currently.

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Major implications

In order for Whittlesea to achieve its long term strategic objectives, a step change is required in terms of:

- Creating high quality, connected walking and cycling infrastructure; this is required to give people regardless of age, income or gender the ability to easily access destinations by foot and bicycle.
- Stronger advocacy on improvements to the public transport network
- Planning controls on new developments that build in a higher diversity of destinations, in order to create more local trips and higher levels of active transport.

Next steps

A *Directions Paper* will be prepared as the second and final report produced as part of this project. The Directions Paper will:

- Highlight ongoing and emerging challenges
- Propose objectives and draft principles for transport planning in Whittlesea
- Offer mode hierarchies, to enable Council to track its progress
- Present different future scenarios, including different transport and land use planning approaches and outcomes
- Offer guidance on the development and implementation of the ITP.

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