STATION STREET NORTH CARLTON

SUMMARY REPORT AUGUST 2017





Prepared for: City of Yarra



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CONTENTS

01	OVERVIEW	5
02	STATION STREET SITE	6
03	ENGAGEMENT APPROACH	7
04	ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY	8
05	ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES	9
06	PLACEMAKING CONCEPT PLANS	10
07	RECOMMENDATIONS	11
08	CASE STUDIES	13
	APPENDICES	



01. OVERVIEW

CONTEXT

City of Yarra is exploring placemaking opportunities that would be made possible by temporarily closing the southern section of Station Street, North Carlton. To understand the longer term implications of this intervention, CoDesign Studio was invited to facilitate a placemaking assessment with local residents and businesses to explore the ideas for re-purposing this road space. This included exploring opportunities and constraints for improved public amenity. From this initial round of community engagement, three concept options were developed with Hansen Partnership and presented to the community for feedback. The concepts were then updated to reflect feedback and form a suite of placemaking recommendations.

This document outlines the project objectives, engagement approach, feedback outcomes, limitations and recommendations for placemaking in Station Street.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

In 2015, the Southern end of Station Street was closed due to Melbourne Water upgrades. From this, a number of local residents expressed their desire to see the road closed permanently.

Following this, Council resolved to progress with a proposal to temporarily close Station Street for a 12 month period for the purposes of undertaking a traffic diversion experiment. In order to inform this process, Council has commissioned a range of further assessments including this placemaking assessment conducted by CoDesign Studio.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The **overall objective** of the Station Street placemaking assessment, is to offer an opportunity for local businesses and residents to provide feedback and ideas for community led activation in the context of a temporary but full road closure of Station Street. This feedback then formulates a set of placemaking recommendations as outlined in this document.

In undertaking the Placemaking Assessment,

CoDesign Studio's objectives were to;

- > Understand possible uses of the site, by inviting placemaking ideas.
- Improve awareness of the project and provide opportunities for local residents to input placemaking ideas.
- Provide a forum for local residents to offer their ideas in person, online or via more direct communication lines: (email, telephone)
- Develop three schematic placemaking concepts for further feedback and review.
- > Provide recommendation for preferred option/s based on feedback.
- > Make recommendations on placemaking aspects of the project.

It was *not* the objective of this project to assess traffic implications of the potential temporary road closure, nor to provide recommendations of whether a full road closure (temporary 12 months, or permanently) should or should not proceed on traffic grounds.

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

In April, local residents were door-knocked and invited to attend a drop-in ideas workshop held in May, of which 29 locals attended to put forward ideas and feedback. From this, three placemaking concepts were produced and included in an online survey for further feedback of which there were 29 respondents from Carlton, North Carlton, Thornbury and Northcote.

KEY PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Key issues and feedback raised at community workshop and via the Your Say Yarra online platform, in relation to a proposed temporary road closure, included: Concern over loss of parking, traffic impacts to neighbouring streets, cyclist safety, child safety, and emergency access.
- The majority of feedback was not supportive of a road closure (only 6 online responses were in favour of closing the road for placemaking). Some of these responses were not willing to trade off on-street parking which limits the extent of placemaking that can occur. The Carlton Neighbourlhood Learning Centre (CNLC) was also not in favour of losing car spaces.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on community feedback, CoDesign Studio has provided a placemaking recommendation (See Chapter 7).

02. STATION STREET SITE

KEY PLACE AUDIT OBSERVATIONS

CoDesign Studio conducted a short place audit of the Station Street site to understand pedestrian and driver behaviour as well as site opportunities and constraints. The following key observations were drawn; (see Appendix B for summary sheet)

- On-street parking outside Carlton Neighbourlhood Learning Centre (CNLC) being used by Melbourne Water for storage.
- 2. Minimal pedestrian and vehicle movements observed on Station Street during site visit.
- 3. Parking on east of Station Street is 90 degree and west is parallel.
- 4. CNLC and Brandon Hotel are key public facilities.
- 5. Proximity of busy Princes Street a potential hazard to encouraging unsupervised active public use of Southern Section of Station Street.



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KEY DESIGN PRINCIPLES

From site observations and feedback;

- 1. Landscaped closure buffer required Proximity of busy Princes Street a potential hazard to encouraging active public use of Southern Section of Station Street.
- 2. Focus area for placemaking and street activation adjacent to CNLC and between 205 Station Street and Princes Street intersection.
- **3. Maximise greening opportunities** at closure area and throughout focus area.
- 4. Maintain existing footpaths
- 5. Maintain cycle access and pedestrian access.



Figure 2 Station St and Princes St intersection.

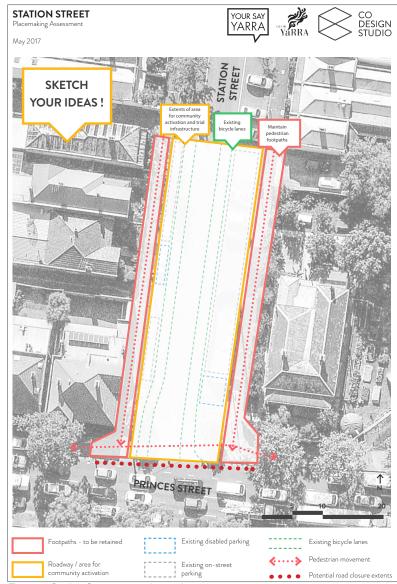


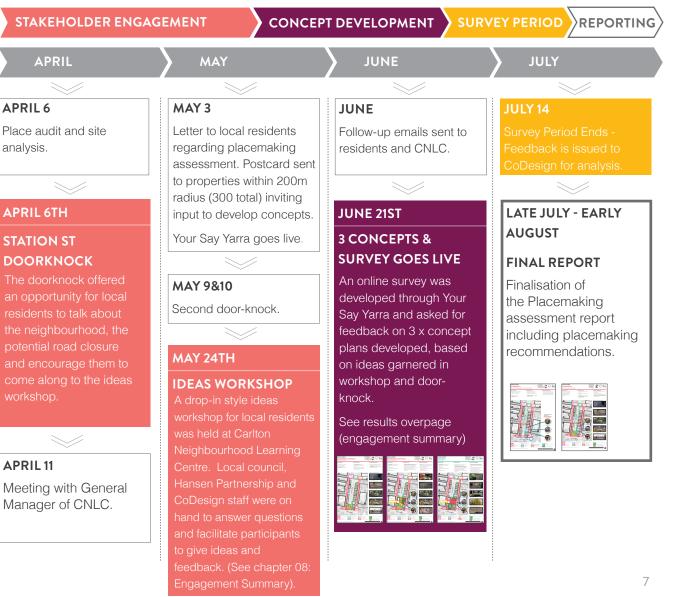
Figure 3 Station St focus area base plan.

CoDesign Studio worked closely with City of Yarra to review the engagement approaches to date to inform the development of a communications strategy and time-line associated with the placemaking master plan (see right). After an inception phase, door-knocking with immediate residents helped get the conversation started. This was followed by a 'drop-in' workshop at the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre (CNLC). Feedback from this workshop was used to inform 3 x placemaking concepts. Finally, a survey was produced offering a chance to galvanise input to date and offer a forum for further comments and feedback on the three developed concepts for a potential Station Street road closure trial.

ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

- 1. Have an open and honest discussion through various engagement approaches: door knocking, online forum, survey, drop-in workshop, email and telephone.
- 2. Use simple, cohesive and inclusive messaging across all materials and engagement forums.
- **3. Have face to face conversations** with key stakeholders.
- 4. Have clear resources and access to information.
- **5.** Collect and evaluate by capturing input and conversation data through memos, post-its, email response and online survey responses.

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS



DOOR KNOCK, INITIAL STAKEHOLDERS CONVERSATIONS & YOURSAY YARRA PHASE 1

Over two visits (April 6th and May 9), CoDesign Studio door knocked local Station Street residents towards the Princes Street intersection. Your Say Yarra page went live, inviting input to help develop concept designs.

Who did we speak to: 22 residents homes (door knock) and CNLC (separate meeting).

YourSay Yarra: 139 people visited the page and 13 have contributed.

Key feedback points:

- 1. Most residents spoken to were keen to be involved in the discussion and ideas workshop.
- 2. Most residents spoken to were noted to be supportive of the closure.
- Carlton NLC: Supportive of place-making projects that involve centre students and staff. Noted that CNLC can support local community groups to undertake projects.
- 4. Carlton NLC: Access and parking are very important as visitors, staff and users of the centre are not local and come via vehicle.
- 5. YourSay Yarra Phase 1: (as of May 25th)Of the 13 responses, nine opposed the closure and only four provided suggestions for placemaking including added greenery and ball play.

DROP-IN IDEAS WORKSHOP

An open ideas workshop was held at the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre on the evening of 6-8pm, May 25th. Local residents in North Carlton within 200 metres of the site were directly invited.

Facilitators:

CoDesign Studio, Hansen Partnership, and City of Yarra.

Who did we speak to: 29 residents homes

Key feedback points:

- 1. Some (11) residents stated they were clearly against the road closure on grounds of traffic, protection of Canning Street from added traffic.
- 2. Some residents stated they are conditionally supportive of the road closure, expressing concerns for traffic impact in neighbouring streets.
- 3. Residents were generally supportive of short term activation eg. Weekends, festivals.
- 4. There was support for added greenery in the form of planter boxes.

CONCEPTS - YOUR SAY YARRA PHASE 2

An online survey was developed to provide a single and focussed portal for participants to;

- Vote on preferred concept option and response to particular infrastructure elements for Station Street road closure (temporary and permanent)
- 2. Gather basic demographics of respondents(age, gender, local suburb, and relationship to Station Street)

Who did we speak to: 27 respondents completed the survey.

Key results and analysis are as follows: Further summary of results in appendix.

- > 15 Female, 12 Male.
- > Majority from Carlton North 74% with others from Carlton, Thornbury, Northcote and Fitzroy.
- > Majority live in Yarra 74% with less than half 37% working in Yarra.
- > Majority say they cycle through the area 48% than drive 33%.
- > 81% percent of respondents preferred none of the proposed concepts and for Station Street to remain open. This strongly suggests that a full road closure is not supported.
- Minimal support (68% opposed) for removal of on-street carparking for 12 months or more in exchange for public space.

05. ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

This evaluation is a summary of feedback from initial door-knocking, meeting with CNLC, Drop-in Ideas Workshop, Your Say Yarra (phase 1 and 2) and direct feedback via phone/email.

KEY THEMES

The following key themes were identified.

Road Space Reallocation

There was low levels of support for road space reallocation to public space in the context of a temporary full road closure.

'48 Hours' - Short Term Activation

There was stronger support for placemaking initiatives that used the roadway for up to 48 hours. Such as street festivals (jazz, food), temporary sports, pop-up spaces, community mural/art.

Better utilise existing green spaces and The Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre

Suggestions were made for placemaking opportunities to be explored at existing public spaces (eg. Nicholson Street Reserve) or the CNLC facility instead of the roadway. Reasons given include established communities already meet and the centre is open to the wider community to hire or host community gatherings.

Child Safety

Concerns were raised about increased risk to child safety due to perceived increase in vehicle traffic around Carlton North Primary as a result of the proposed road closure.

Cyclist Safety

Concerns were raised regarding increased risk to cyclist safety due to anticipated increase in vehicle traffic around Carlton North Primary as a result of the proposed road closure.

Increased Traffic Spillage

Concerns were raised over the impact of increased traffic to surrounding streets, namely Lee and Canning Streets. Some residents suggested they would be more supportive of a road closure if these anticipated traffic impacts could be addressed.

Protection of Canning Street

Canning Street serves as a main bicycle corridor connecting the City and Northern Suburbs. Concerns were raised at both the ideas workshop, online survey and via Bicycle Network that an estimated increase in traffic will increase risk to cyclists and pedestrians using Canning Street. A Change.org petition was initiated to seek support for keeping Station Street open. There were 262 supporters for this local resident led petition.

Emergency Access

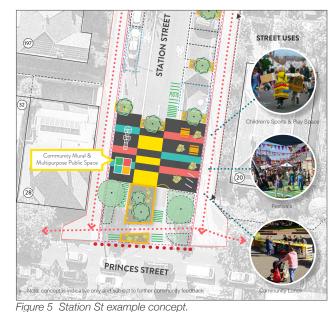
Concerns were raised about blocking access of emergency access vehicles should a full road closure proceed. While there may be minimal actual delay or imposition to emergency access, the perception is there is a problem and should be noted.

Parking

The Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre and some residents expressed strong desire for parking not to be reduced.



Figure 4 Station St 'drop-in' session.



STATION STREET – EVALUATION REPORT

06. PLACEMAKING CONCEPT PLANS

KEY PLACE MAKING IDEAS

Following community feedback, 2 x placemaking concept plans were developed to explore options for a 12 month placemaking trial and 1 x concept which formalises trialled interventions as a long term option. All options included maintaining existing footpaths, cycling access and pedestrian access. (See appendix C for estimated costs and larger concept plan images)

TEMPORARY OPTION 1 12 MONTHS TRIAL

> Lowest cost option that adds greenery and minimal parking restriction.

- > Can be trialled for 12 months and removed
- > Pedestrian footpaths maintained

STATION STREET TEMPORARY OPTION 1 12 MONTHS TRIAL			
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TEMPORARY OPTION 2 12 MONTHS TRIAL

> Capitalise on street closure and move closure boundary north to maximise public space area for community and Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre use.

> Can be trialled for 12 months and removed.



LONG TERM OPTION 3 12 MONTHS TRIAL

> Evolution of 'Option 2: 12 month trial' which formalise trialled interventions

> Capitalise on street closure and move closure boundary north to maximise public space area for community and Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre use.



See Chapter 07: Recommendations for updated concepts based on potential trail road closure scenarios.

07. RECOMMENDATIONS

PLACEMAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

Should council proceed with the road closure trial, we recommend that a small amount of funding be allocated to support placemaking in this area.

There was some support for one-off placemaking events that would not require a road closure on an ongoing basis, for example a street party or supervised play street event that would require a temporary road closure for only an afternoon of a weekend day.

Recommended placemaking activities include:

- 1. Short term activation Allocate funds to support respondents who put forward ideas that would make community-led placemaking events such as events or community lunches simpler and easier to carry out. (See 08 Case Study: The Neighbourhood Project. p13)
- 2. Community road safety initiative could be explored with partners such as TAC or Vicroads, trialling a community-led, low-cost, high impact road safety intervention. (See case study: South Melbourne Market)
- **3. Greening:** Landscaped buffer to Princes Street is well considered (See diagram right)
- 4. Bicycle awareness: Bicycle decals are installed to increase awareness (See diagram right)

The diagram to the right represents the road closure proceeding whereby;

- Small community events (3 hours to 2 days) could be planned subject to traffic management plan and trail closure of southern section of Station Street.
- > Bicycle access is maintained
- > Existing footpaths maintained
- > Existing carparking is maintained

(See appendix C for larger version)



08. CASE STUDIES

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT

The Neighbourhood project is a CoDesign initiative that invites Councils along with community groups, organisations, residents and local businesses to apply through an Expression Of Interest process to receive funding and training to bring their ideas to life. Selected groups receive mentoring and training across 5 days of time over 3 months to develop and install their project idea.

Community groups from different councils have worked together to achieve projects such as a trial local dog park, community art festival and a laneway greening initiative.

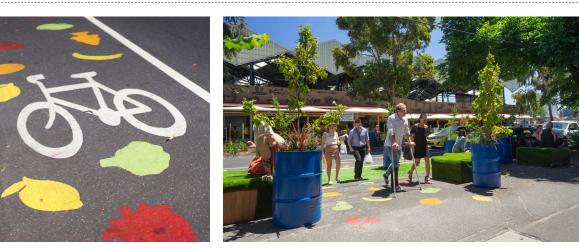
Images - Top: Process Diagram Left: Community Art Fair, Cardinia Lakes, VIC Right: Dog Park, Brooklyn, VIC



SOUTH MELBOURNE MARKET

In late 2016, Cecil Street South Melbourne, CoDesign Studio worked with local council and market traders to design and install low-cost infrastructure changes including public seating and novel surface decals to increase awareness of pedestrian priority zones to passing drivers. Traders successfully lobbied the council and Mayor to increase the length of the trial

This is a successful outcome showing how consistent, open and engaging consultation and testing can lead to low cost, high impact interventions shaped by the community for the community.





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APPENDICES

- A: SURVEY RESULTS
- B: PLACE AUDIT

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- C: CONCEPT DESIGNS
- D: ENGAGMENT MATERIALS

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APPENDIX A: SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

SURVEY RESULTS

- > 27 respondents completed the survey.
- > 15 Female, 12 Male.
- Majority from Carlton North 74% with others from Carlton, Thornbury, Northcote and Fitzroy.
- > Majority live in Yarra 74% with less than half 37% working in Yarra.
- Majority say they cycle through the area 48% than drive 33%.

Q1: Which concept design do you prefer?

81% percent of respondents preferred none of the proposed concepts and for Station Street to remain open. This strongly suggests that a full road closure is not supported.

Q2: What is your view of the following elements being included in the final concept design?

<u>Q2.1: Do you support additional greenery</u> throughout the road closure area.

54% were strongly opposed, 32% supported or strongly supported, 14% were neutral. This suggests that there is only minor support for additional greening in the street.

Q2.2: Car-park linemarking

50% opposed or strongly opposed, 36% supported, 14% neutral. It is noted that key stakeholder CNLC strongly supports line-marking of the car-parks adjacent to the centre to increase parking efficiency

Q2.3: Tables and Seats

63% opposed or strongly opposed, 18% supported and 19% neutral.

Q2.4: Additional Bike Parking

50% opposed additional bike parking, 40% supported

Q2.5: Space for play, activities and events

62% strongly opposed or opposed, 28% supported

Q2.6: Remove some on-street parking to create additional public space

68% strongly opposed or opposed, only 18% supported.

Common themes from respondent comments; (as per 04: Engagement Outcomes)

- > Road space reallocation
- Short term activation of road space (ie. weekend event)
- Look at other local public spaces or CNLC for placemaking initiatives.
- Child safety due to redistribution of traffic with a temporary road closure in place.
- Cyclist safety due to redistribution of traffic with a temporary road closure in place.
- Concern over increased traffic spillage with a road closure in place.
- > Protection of Canning St.
- > Emergency Access
- > Parking

Note: City of Yarra has raw survey results and comments on file, hence only a summary is included here.

APPENDIX B: PLACE AUDIT



NORTH

APPENDIX C: CONCEPT DESIGNS

PLACEMAKING RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION

12 Months Trial Estimated Cost: \$3,000 - 6,000 (low) Pros: Trial only, adaptable, low-cost, high impact changes. Cons: Additional maintenance

PLACEMAKING ASSESSMENT OPTIONS

OPTION 1

12 Months Trial Estimated Cost: \$3,000 - 6,000 (low)

Pros: Trial only, adaptable, low-cost, minimal intervention on carspace

Cons: Durability risk, ongoing maintenance

OPTION 2

12 Months Trial

Estimated Cost: \$6,000 - 10,000 (low-medium) Pros: Trial only, adaptable, low-cost, high impact changes.

Cons: Additional maintenance

OPTION 3

Long Term / Permanent Estimated Cost: \$10,000+

Pros: Permanent, medium-cost, high impact.

Cons: Higher cost than temporary options. Would require additional and ongoing maintenance

Main Works:

- Temporary planter built around existing median island.
- > Cyclist alert strips added.
- Small events (3 hours to 2 days) could be planned subject to traffic management plan and trail closure of southern section of Station Street.

Main Works:

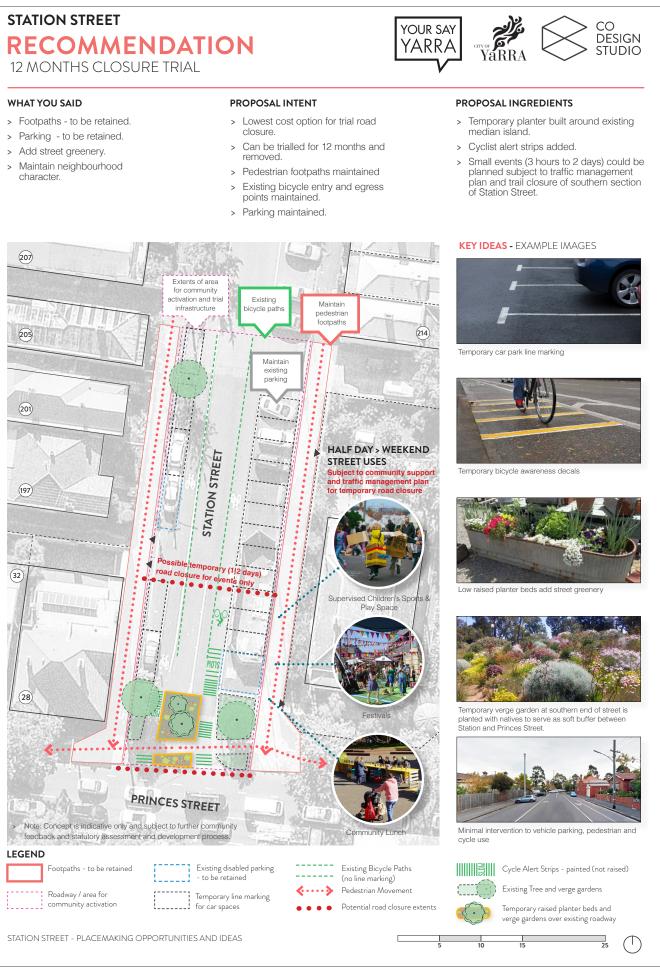
- > Added greenery between car spaces
- > Temporary car park line marking
- > Temporary planter built around existing median island.
- > Cyclist alert strips added

Main Works:

- > Added greenery throughout road closure area.
- 4-6 car spaces traded for added street greenery usable public space
- > Car park line marking
- Temporary planter built at southern end of Station Street
- > Added temporary seating

Main Works:

- Raised pedestrian footpath at Station Street and Princes Street intersection.
- > Added greenery throughout road closure area.
- 4-6 car spaces traded for added street greenery usable public space
- > Permanent car park line-marking
- > Verge garden bed at closure intersection
- > Space for temporary seating



STATION STREET TEMPORARY OPTION 1 12 MONTHS TRIAL



WHAT YOU SAID

- > Footpaths to be retained
- > Add street greenery
- > Parking to be retained
- > Maintain neighbourhood character

PROPOSAL INTENT

- > Lowest cost option that adds minimum amenity
- > Can be trialled for 12 months and removed
- > Pedestrian footpaths maintained
- Existing bicycle entry and egress > points maintained

PROPOSAL INGREDIENTS

- > Added greenery between car spaces
- > Temporary car park line marking
- Temporary planter built around existing median island. >
- > Cyclist alert strips added

KEY IDEAS - EXAMPLE IMAGES



Temporary car park line marking



Temporary bicycle awareness decals



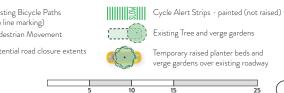
up temporary line marked car spaces

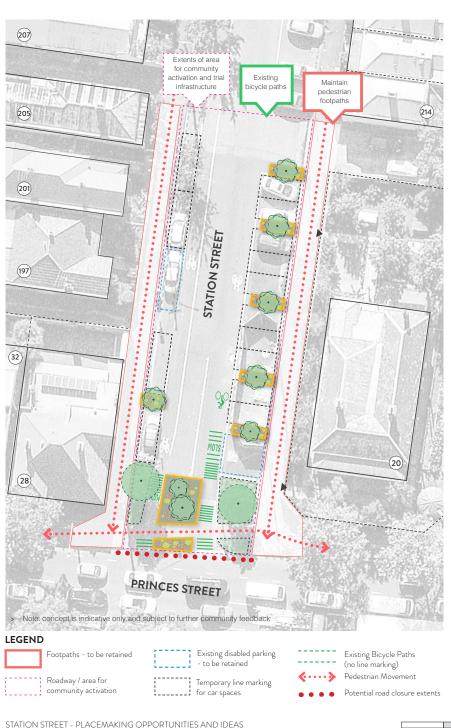


Temporary verge garden at southern end of street is planted with natives to serve as soft buffer between Station and Princes Street



Minimal intervention to vehicle parking, pedestrian and cycle use





STATION STREET – EVALUATION REPORT

STATION STREET TEMPORARY OPTION 2



Public space for day to day play

'Soft' or landscaped road closure

Public space to host one-off

WHAT YOU SAID

and activities

Added greenery

> Opportunities to sit

>

> events

>

>

buffer

PROPOSAL INTENT

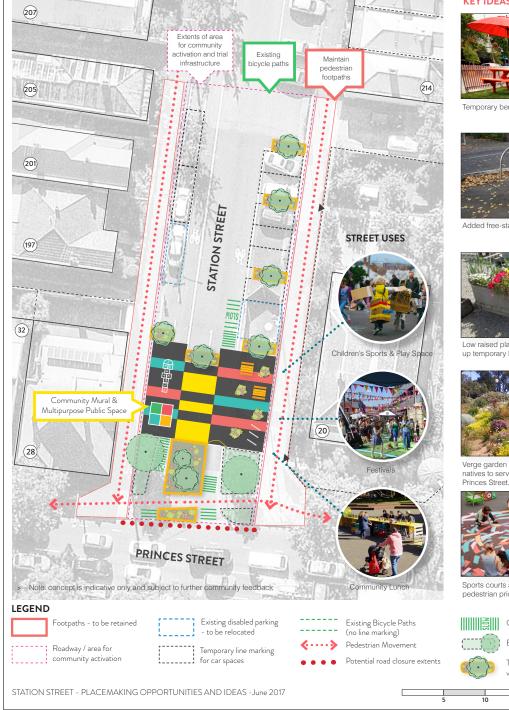
- Capitalise on street closure and move > closure boundary north to maximise public space area for community and Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre use.
- > Can be trialled for 12 months and removed
- > Pedestrian footpaths maintained
- Existing bicycle entry and egress points > maintained



PROPOSAL INGREDIENTS

- > Added greenery throughout road closure area.
- > 4-6 car spaces traded for added street greenery usable public space
- > Car park line marking
- Temporary planter built at southern end of Station Street >
- > Added temporary seating

KEY IDEAS - EXAMPLE IMAGES





Temporary bench seating



Added free-standing bicycle parking



Low raised planter beds add street greenery and break up temporary line marked car spac



Verge garden at southern end of street is planted with natives to serve as soft buffer between Station and



Sports courts and community road mural aids and pedestrian priority - Brunswick Better Block pictured

25



STATION STREET OPTION 3 LONG TERM



WHAT YOU SAID

- Public Space for day to day play and activities
- > Public space to host one-off events
- > Added greenery

207

205

201

197

(32

28

LEGEND

Community Mural & Multipurpose Public Space

- > 'Soft' or landscaped road closure buffer
- > Opportunities to sit

PROPOSAL INTENT

Existing

bicycle paths

Extents of area for community ctivation and trial infrastructure

STATION STREET

MOTS

Existing disabled parking

Line marking for car space

- to be relocated

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PRINCES STREET

- > Evolution of 'Option 2: 12 month trial'
- > Formalise trialled interventions
- Capitalise on street closure and move closure boundary north to maximise public space area for community and Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre use.

Maintain

pedestrian footpaths

.

(20)

STREET USES

Children's play spa

Raised footpath with tactile

Potential road closure extents

ground surface indicators

Pedestrian Movement

214

- > Pedestrian footpaths maintained
- > Existing bicycle entry and egress points maintained

PROPOSAL INGREDIENTS

- Raised pedestrian footpath at Station Street and Princes Street intersection.
- Added greenery throughout road closure area.
- > 4-6 car spaces traded for added street greenery usable public space
- > Permanent car park line-marking
- > Verge garden bed at closure intersection
- > Space for temporary seating
- **KEY IDEAS -** EXAMPLE IMAGES



Maintain planters bicycle parking for long term use and added street greenery.



Raised pedestrian crossing with bluestone square sawn setts, tactile ground surface indicators and directional signage.



Planter beds add street greenery and break up linemarked car spaces



Verge garden at southern end of street is planted with natives to serve as soft buffer between Station and Princes Street. - image City of Yarra



Long term road mural inlay or ashphalt surface treatment for sports, play and sense of place - example only.



Cycle Alert Strips - painted (not raised) Existing Tree and verge gardens

15

Permanent planter beds or verge gardens over existing roadway

25

STATION STREET - PLACEMAKING OPPORTUNITIES AND IDEAS

Footpaths - to be retained

Roadway / area for

community activation

Note: concept is indicative only and subject to further community feedback

STATION STREET - EVALUATION REPORT

APPENDIX D: ENGAGEMENT MATERIALS

DROP-IN IDEAS WORKSHOP

Workshop participants were walked through the follow sequence of panels, and encouraged to contribute ideas and vote on other ideas using the postcards and post in notes;

A1 Board # 1 - Big Framing Question: "How can we make Station Street happier, healthier and safer?"

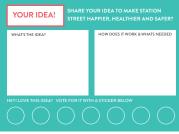
A1 Board # 2 - Ideas Board - 48 hours: What activation or community ideas could be implemented over 48 hours

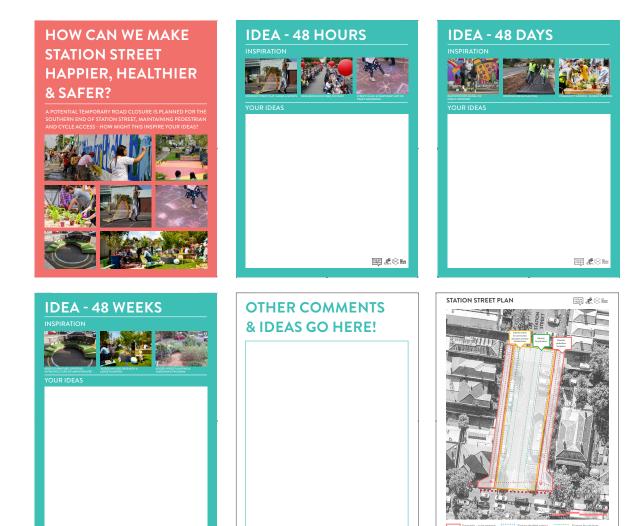
A1 Board # 3 - Ideas Board - 48 Days (1-2 months): What activation or community ideas could be implemented over 48 Days. A1 Board # 4 - Ideas Board - 48 Weeks (10 -12 months): What activation or community ideas could be implemented over 48 Weeks

A1 Board # 5 - Other Comments: Throughout the process, they may have comments on issues such as parking, access, greenery, safety, noise to name a few. These were noted down on post it notes and placed on this board.

A1 Board # 6 - Large Aerial Plan: A large aerial map marked up with non-negotiable design elements (footpaths, cycle access, disabled parking) and extent of important areas ie. closure area, and existing parking.







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