



Transport Strategy

What we heard report

We have listened to South Australians

We engaged extensively with key stakeholders and over 6,000 members of the community to inform the development of South Australia's first Transport Strategy.

The Transport Strategy (the Strategy) outlines our 30-year vision for the State's transport system. It sets the overall direction for future transport planning and will guide decisions to ensure South Australia remains a great place to live and do business.



Australian Government



Government
of South Australia

Department for Infrastructure
and Transport

How we engaged

In September 2024, we launched an extensive engagement program with stakeholders and the South Australian community to develop the Strategy. This program aimed to gather diverse perspectives and ensure the strategy resonates with the community's needs and priorities.

We used a variety of innovative methods to ensure we heard from all South Australians, even the groups we typically find it harder to reach, like young people.



Interactive virtual reality experience

Throughout November and December 2024, we hosted 30 face-to-face events across 26 locations in Adelaide and regional South Australia.

Participants could interact either at one of the pop-up locations around SA by using a virtual reality headset, or online via their own device.

This innovative, interactive digital experience enabled participants to visualise South Australia's transport future at either a location in the city, a metropolitan suburb, regional town or at a commercial and industrial hub.

The concept was tailored to the participants' responses to a short questionnaire aligned to elements of the draft Transport Strategy. This allowed the community to provide meaningful feedback, as well as visualise how their feedback could influence the future of transport and see how their priorities could be reflected.



Key stakeholder workshops

A series of stakeholder meetings were held in the form of roundtables, webinars and virtual meetings, engaging industry, local government, advocacy organisations, essential services, higher education, and more, engaging 275 stakeholders.



Online survey

Surveyed over 5,300 people, reaching groups who don't normally engage with us, particularly younger people. There was a range of surveys tailored to either a community member, council, or organisation.



Focus groups

Over 100 participants were engaged through focus groups, including people with accessibility requirements, younger people (18-25 years), seniors (over 65 years) people who live in regional SA, parents of school-aged children, and small businesses.



Written submissions

Over 100 written submissions were received via the website and directly to the program email mailbox.



What we heard

While the views expressed by the South Australian community and key stakeholders were diverse, there were some recurring themes.



Safety is paramount for personal and commercial transport use

Safety means different things to different people – but it is important to everyone.

For community members, feeling safe and confident is just as important as their physical safety. This is particularly the case for vulnerable groups such as seniors, children, women and individuals with disabilities or access requirements.

They advocate for enhanced safety infrastructure, including better lighting, signage, and separated cycling lanes, to improve both actual and perceived safety, build confidence, and encourage the use of alternative transport modes instead of cars.



Councils and organisations across South Australia also prioritise the safety of community members, with a focus on achieving this through enhanced safety infrastructure. This includes the separation of commercial freight transport from cars, as well as better cycling and walking pathways. These infrastructure improvements are seen as essential to ensure the safety of all road users and to promote a safer, more efficient transport network.

Car usage remains dominant but there is strong interest in public transport

The majority of people rely on cars for personal transport, with 94% of respondents having access to a car. In contrast, public transport usage is limited, with only 19% of residents using it weekly and just 6% relying on it as their main method of travel.

Convenience is the most important factor when choosing transport, leading many people to choose their cars when running errands,

commuting to work, or attending appointments due to the flexibility it offers.

Public transport emerged as a significant topic among stakeholders, with 79% of survey respondents spontaneously mentioning some form of public transport. The majority of these comments called for more public transport options and network enhancement and expansion.

Local councils emphasised the need for improved public transport infrastructure to enhance connectivity and access to services and amenities, thereby reducing reliance on cars and alleviating road congestion.

Both community members and councils pointed out the lack of public transport options in regional areas. This disparity between access to public transport in metropolitan vs regional areas contributes challenges experienced by regional residents.

Additionally, freight organisations supported improved public transport to reduce road congestion, improve safety and facilitate more efficient and productive freight networks.

Regional connectivity needs attention

Councils and community members expressed that regional connectivity and transport networks do not meet the needs of all residents, leaving many feeling left out. This is especially true among vulnerable regional residents who may not be able to drive or have access to a car, such as the elderly, those living with disability or young people.

Residents and councils highlighted the major



benefits that an improved transport network, including enhanced public transport, more active transport infrastructure, and better connections between regions, would bring to these communities.

Notable feedback was received from vulnerable community members, emphasising the positive health and well-being outcomes that would come from better access to public transport or rideshare services, especially for those unable to drive or without a license. This increased accessibility would allow them to be more

independent and access essential services and amenities without relying on others for transportation.



Stakeholders and communities agree that environmental sustainability is critical, but there are challenges to overcome

Making our transport system more environmentally sustainable was a key goal for many stakeholders, and there is a strong commitment to moving towards better environmental outcomes and net zero emissions.

Local councils and the community seek to improve individual and community health and well-being and see active and public transport as key solutions. Councils consider opportunities to enhance infrastructure, regulation and services to improve active and public transport options within local communities. Residents focus more on individual needs, such as convenience, cost, safety and health.



There is appetite for change for the future of transport

Community, councils and industry and community organisations agree that the current transport system must adapt to changes to continue to be fit for purpose into the future. They see opportunities for improvement and indicate support for change, led by the Department and with the involvement of stakeholders across all parts of the economy and society.

Indicators show some appetite for change

- Most South Australians (63%) believe that SA can achieve a better future for transport, with younger people and metro residents being more confident we can deliver on this change.
- 24% wish to use public transport more.
- 44% want to walk, run and cycle more.
- 10% plan to use cars less.

- Over 65% believe that planning a transport system alongside urban growth is important.
- Around 70% of residents are willing to accept short-term disruptions for infrastructure improvements.
- 60% of respondents aged 18-24 are willing to accept short-term price increases for an environmentally sustainable transport network.
- Industry and business groups told us that by improving connectivity, businesses can operate more effectively, access new markets and attract investment.

Collectively, this suggests the community is open to embracing changes that directly impact safety, connectivity and sustainability

Councils, industry and community organisations are supportive of taking a strategic, long-term approach to the transport system. Councils represent their communities and seek to ensure truly joined-up planning approaches. Industry groups advocate for an economic lens to be applied across decision-making.

Aboriginal Stakeholders

Advice from the First Nations of South Australia Aboriginal Corporation (FNSAAC) and survey responses from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members emphasised the importance of involving Aboriginal communities to understand their travel and movement needs. This included the role of transport in connecting First Nations people to communities and Country around the State, and that Aboriginal communities may have specific needs such as recognising that Aboriginal people often travel in larger groups with elderly and young family members, and others who may have additional needs. Amenities such as toilets, rubbish bins, and safe places to stop on country roads are crucial.

Signage is an important part of acknowledging and preserving cultural heritage. For example, ensuring that local wildlife signage is relevant to the area and that signs advising the name of Country are visible. Ensuring the transport network supports equal and fair access to

employment opportunities, services, education and amenities was also noted as a key consideration in creating an equitable transport network that considers all South Australians.

Want to know more?

If you have any questions about the Transport Strategy please get in contact with us.



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