

Transforming our little streets

As COVID-19 restrictions ease and Melbourne begins to reactivate and recover, we want to make it as easy as possible to welcome people safely back to our streets. From Little Lonsdale to Flinders Lane, we’re making changes that will create more space on our busy footpaths for shoppers, diners and pedestrians, and help local businesses operate under COVID-19 restrictions.

# What are we doing?

We’ve slowed traffic from 40km/h to 20km/h on all one way sections of the following streets:

* Flinders Lane
* Little Collins
* Little Bourke
* Little Lonsdale.

We’ve also created shared zones and installed street stencils, speed bumps and planter boxes to help calm traffic and make it easier for pedestrians to move around safely. People walking along our little streets now have right of way.

# What’s next?

We will continue to create more room for pedestrians and outdoor dining by transforming some on-street car parks. We’ll also install seating, trees in planter boxes, bike hoops and bollards, and paint the road with vibrant colours to help bring these spaces to life.

Collectively, these elements help to narrow the available roadway and slow traffic down, while providing new, protected, pedestrian-only spaces.

The little street transformations are trial treatments which are low cost, quick and easy to install. These changes will be installed for an initial 12-month period, with a view to making them permanent if considered successful.

# When is this happening?

From December we will begin a staged approach for the installation of the painted stencils and street furniture:

* December/January – Little Collins Street (Spring to Swanston Street)
* February/March 2021 – other selected blocks

# Extended outdoor dining

As the city re-opens you’ll notice more outdoor dining throughout the city including our little streets. Extended outdoor dining permits make it easier for hospitality venues to expand their seating onto footpaths, car parking spaces and other areas.

Changes to our little streets will work around existing outdoor dining spaces.

If you are a restaurant or café, located on one of the little streets you can still apply for an extended outdoor dining permit to extend trading in the new space. Refer to our Extended Outdoor Dining Guidelines (visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au).

Permit applications for outdoor dining will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration traffic conditions, patron safety, amenity and access for pedestrians, residents and essential vehicles.

There may be some areas that are not appropriate for extended outdoor trading because of safety and amenity conditions. If you’d like to know more about the application process, please call the Business Concierge Service on 9658 9658.

# Why are these changes only being made to some blocks of the little streets?

We have chosen locations that are congested with high foot traffic, have a high number of shops, cafes and restaurants, and paid on-street car parking spaces that can be converted to create more room for people and local businesses.

# What about accessibility for people with disabilities?

All of the works being undertaken are compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act. Information about the works is being shared with Disability groups via City of Melbourne’s email networks. Wayfinding signage and directional help for pedestrians will be provided where there are significant impacts. We are maintaining the number of accessible parking spaces. Some disability parking spaces will be relocated. These will remain as close to their existing location as possible, and our mobility maps will be updated.

# What about access and residential amenity?

We will work with businesses and residents to ensure that the spaces created on our little streets maintain safety and amenity for nearby residents, businesses and pedestrians.

Access will be maintained 24-hours a day at low speeds for deliveries and for essential car trips, especially for people with a disability, and for trade, service and emergency vehicles.

On weekdays, Little Collins Street will remain closed to vehicles from 12pm to 2pm, to provide more space for people.

# Give us your feedback

If you have feedback about any of the elements that are being trialled in the street, please let us know. We value your feedback and would like to hear what you think about the changes, what works well and what could be improved. This will inform the long term plans for more permanent transformation in the future.

To provide feedback visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/little-streets or call us on 9658 9658.

# Further information

Transforming our little streets is just one of the ways we are bringing people back to our city.

Learn more about City of Melbourne’s recovery plan here: [melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneisopen](https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-melbourne/melbourne-is-open/Pages/melbourne-is-open.aspx)