



MOVE ALBURY WODONGA Integrated Transport Strategy

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SUMMARY



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**TWONE
CITIES COMMUNITY**



INTRODUCTION

AlburyCity Council and Wodonga Council, under the Two Cities One Community initiative, are embarking on the development of MOVE: The Albury Wodonga Integrated Transport Strategy (MOVE).

MOVE serves the combined community of the Albury and Wodonga region and provides direction and guidance to meet current and future transport needs. MOVE will elevate our transport networks, making Albury Wodonga an even better place to live, work and visit.

Over 750 people were engaged during the consultation period. The full community consultation report is available to download at alburywodonga.gov.au/move. A snapshot of the key themes and insights of this process are included in this summary document.

To inform development of MOVE, stakeholder consultation was conducted from 20 April 2022 to 1 June 2022, using multiple modes of engagement to reach all corners of our community.

KEY INSIGHTS

We heard from over 750 people throughout this engagement process. Insights most commonly heard from our community include:



There is a strong community desire for increased uptake of **ACTIVE** and **SUSTAINABLE** modes of transport



ENVIRONMENTAL sustainability in the transport network is a community priority



There are a range of **BARRIERS** causing dissatisfaction and preventing patronage of public transport networks

There is a general community receptiveness to **NEW AND EMERGING** transport modes




SAFETY of all transport modes is a key issue for the community




'CONNECTIVITY AND RELIABILITY' is a priority community principle for the future of transport in the region

CROSS-BORDER COMPLEXITIES are a critical transport challenge for the region

Enhanced transport **CONNECTIVITY** and coordination between Albury Wodonga is a key point of interest for the community



Albury Airport and both Albury and Wodonga train stations are **VALUABLE TRANSPORT HUBS** connecting Albury Wodonga with Australia and beyond, but intermodal access is a concern



HOW WE ENGAGED

Engagement took place between April and June 2022 across a broad range of mechanisms. Key engagement methods are noted in the diagram below:

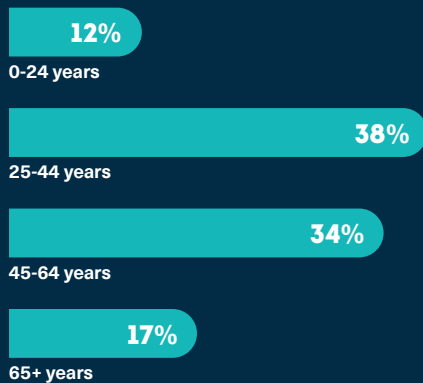




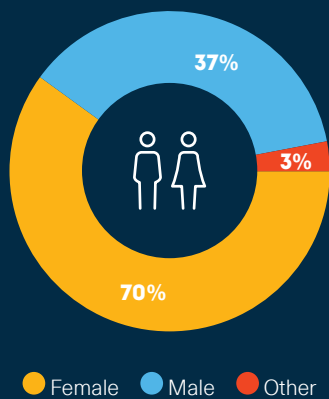
WHO WE ENGAGED

Across the 750 people engaged in this project, 318 completed a dedicated transport survey. Survey respondents included:

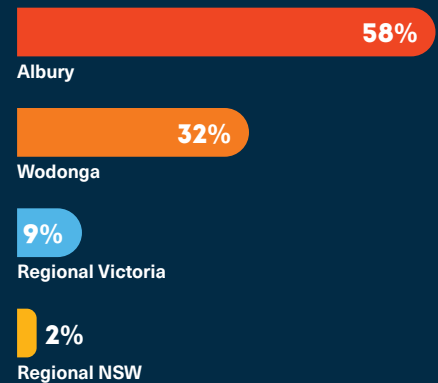
AGE



GENDER



PLACE OF RESIDENCE



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

3% of survey respondents compared to **3.6%** of the total Albury Wodonga population



Identifying with a Disability

12% of survey respondents compared to **18%** of the total Australian population



From a Culturally or Linguistically Diverse Background

11% of survey respondents compared to **7.9%** of the total Albury Wodonga population

WHAT YOU SAID

Bringing together participants from across our engagement mechanisms, we can start to see some key elements of our Strategy and areas of focus. You said ...

VISION

Albury Wodonga is a leader in regional transport planning. Our transport network is accessible, connected, and safe for all who move in, through and between our cities. The transport network enables our community to choose to move in healthy and sustainable ways and enhances our area's liveability now and into the future.

PRINCIPLES

Participants voted on principles they thought should guide the Strategy. The top six principles in order of importance include:

- 1 Connectivity and Reliability**
Efficiently and reliably connecting all transport modes within our system and between our cities.
- 2 Safety**
Ensuring users feel safe using all transport modes, and the likelihood of incidents on our roads is reduced
- 3 Equity and Accessibility**
Supporting transport demands from all sectors of the community
- 4 Sustainability**
Promoting the adoption of transport modes that reduce pollution and ease congestion
- 5 Liveability and Amenity**
Supporting high quality-built environments, pleasant streets and liveable neighbourhoods
- 6 Providing a Range of Transport Modes**
Enabling multiple transport choices for the community



STRENGTHS & CHALLENGES

A range of existing strengths and challenges within Albury Wodonga's transport system were identified by engagement participants.

STRENGTHS



Geography and Existing Attributes

The natural environment and geography of Albury Wodonga is suited to walking and cycling providing opportunity to expand active transport modes



Existing Active Transport Network

Existing active transport networks, especially recreational paths are enjoyed by the community



Established Regional Connectivity

The Albury Airport, Hume Freeway, and rail links are strengths that connect the region to the rest of NSW, Victoria, and Australia

CHALLENGES



Disconnected Growth

The rapid geographic expansion of the Albury Wodonga urban area is an ongoing challenge to connecting the two cities



Disconnected Network

The greatest barrier to the uptake of modes other than private vehicles is connectivity to key destinations and services



Journey Time

The travel and wait times of alternative transport modes such as public transport are barriers to their uptake



"Love the bike paths and we use them regularly so more of them would be great"

Survey respondent, female, aged 45-54

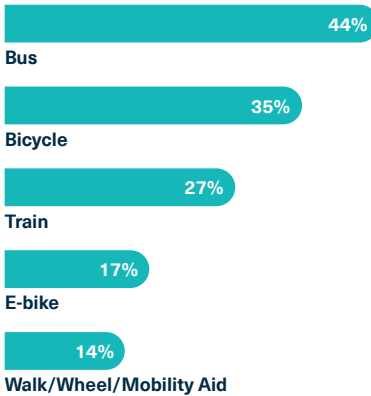
WHAT WE HEARD

Engagement allowed our community to provide detailed insights into key areas of our transport network. We heard...



The community are keen to use alternative forms of transport

Survey respondents were asked what mode of transport they would use if there were no barriers to its uptake.



Note: respondents could choose more than one option



"For me to use active transport to/from work, I would need end-of-trip facilities and the school bus network would need to improve"

Survey respondent, female, aged 35-44



Safety and accessibility are barriers to the uptake of public transport

Over 70% of survey respondents agreed that if public transport in Albury Wodonga was safer and more accessible for them, they would use it more often.



"[The bus network] feels a bit unsafe and hard to navigate. Better timetables are needed"

Survey respondent, female, aged 16-24



"I haven't actually used [public transport] but would love to if the network extended further"

Survey respondent, aged 65+

Safety and accessibility are barriers to the uptake of active transport

77% of survey respondents agreed that if active transport in Albury Wodonga was safer and more accessible for them, they would use it more often.



"The footpaths in Wodonga are dangerous and difficult to use with a pram. I can imagine how inaccessible that would make them for people who rely on mobility aids"

Survey respondent, female, aged 25-34



"Increasing bicycle path networks to promote sustainable and safe transport options for short commutes"

Survey respondent, male, aged 55-64



The community are open to emerging forms of transport and micro-mobility

Ten percent of survey respondents said they would use e-bikes if there were no barriers to their uptake.



"E- bikes and maybe electric scooters are the future of transport"

Survey respondent, male, aged 65+



"I think EV charging stations would be a good addition to the area"

Survey respondent, aged 25-34

The community agree there is a need to reduce reliance on cars to cut down emissions

Over 85% of survey respondents agreed that in 10 years the percentage of emissions from cars in Albury Wodonga should be less than today.



"Promote climate friendly transport so that our children say watch for bikes not cars"

Survey respondent, male, aged 25-34



"More environmentally friendly options aimed at improving cross-border public transport"

Survey respondent, female, aged 16-24



"Only allow public transport, bicycles, and pedestrians on Dean Street from 8am-5.30pm, 6 days a week"

Survey respondent, female, aged 45-54

The community's response was inconsistent on whether the footpath and bicycle network were well connected and safe to use

Conversations indicate that positive reflections on these paths may be regarding recreational riding, whereas negative sentiment is more related to commuting



48%
agree



38%
disagree



"Overall active transport systems are full of gaps making some areas unsafe to walk or ride"

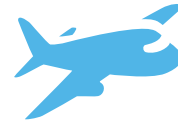
Survey respondent, female, aged 25-34



"I love [the] ride along the Causeway to Wodonga and the way the trail connects to their wonderful system of linear parks"

Map submission, Lincoln Causeway

WHAT WE HEARD *(continued)*



Respondents from Albury, South Albury, and Lavington were more likely to view the active transport network as disconnected and unsafe to use

It is worth noting that the survey question was phrased in a way that respondents may have voted on the footpath and bicycle network in their local suburb, or in the wider Albury-Wodonga region.



“Really well done on the cycle paths. I’ve ridden from Lavington to Huon Creek Road with barely any time on the road”

Survey respondent, male, aged 25-34

The community agreed that the public transport network is not attractive or easy to use

Almost 65% of survey respondents disagreed that public transport in Albury Wodonga is attractive and easy to use.



“[There is] no public transport at night. [It is] not accessible or convenient enough to get to work”

Survey respondent, male, aged 35-44

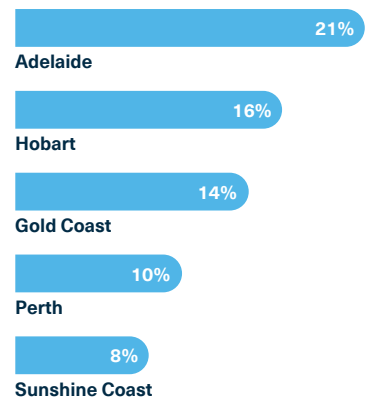


“[The bus system is] confusing because it’s cross-border, so I don’t know what ticket/s I need, or where the buses go to”

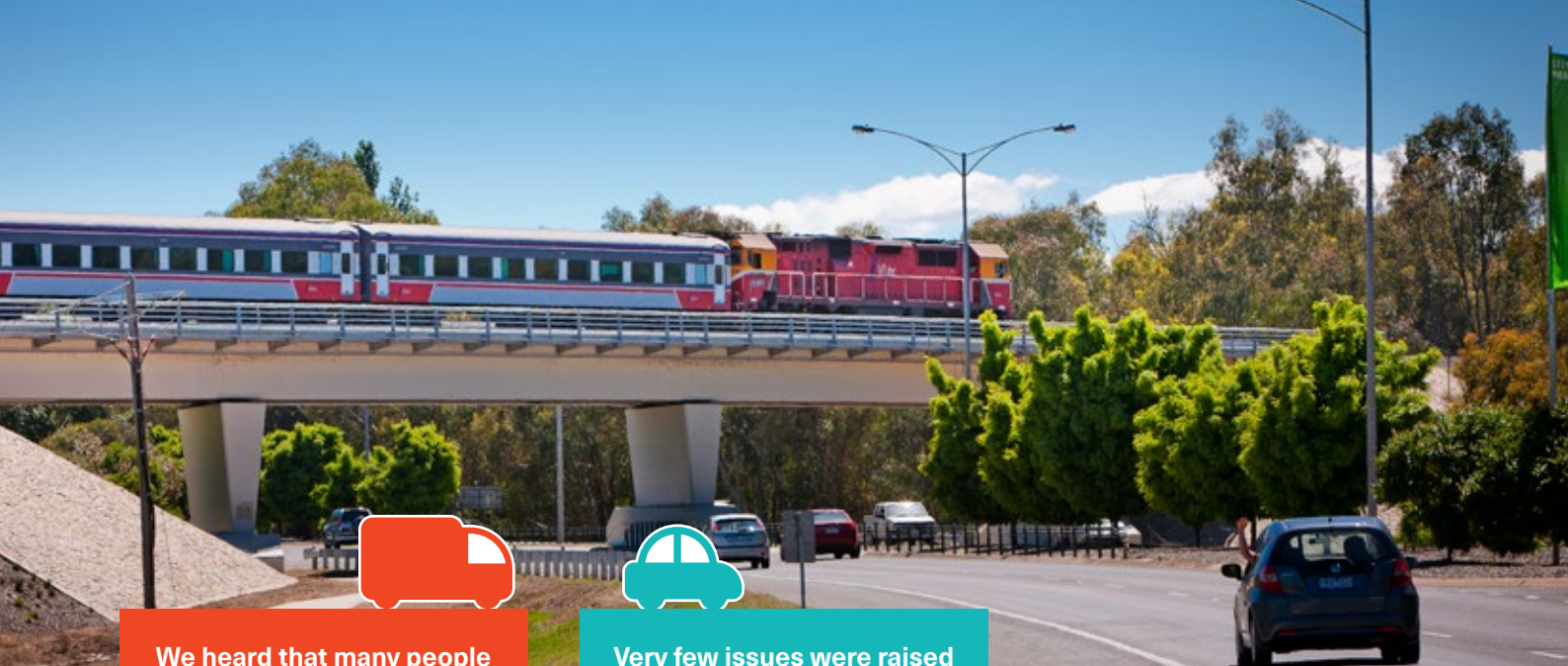
Survey respondent, female, aged 16-24

Survey respondents would like to see a range of Australian cities connected via air with Albury Wodonga

Survey respondents were asked which cities they would like new air connections with.



Note: respondents could choose up to three options



We heard that many people want to feel safe where they live, work and play

Many community members during workshops, pop-ups and in the survey raised concerns regarding speeding and hooning, and of feeling unsafe in their streets. Our community told us that locations with high foot traffic should have reductions in speed limits to improve safety and enable other modes of transport.



"[A] second entrance [into Killara] will hopefully prevent/limit the aggressive driving, speeding and unsafe behaviours of impatient drivers making the estate dangerous"

Map submission, Killara



"The speed limit in central Albury should be 40km/h - this has worked well in Wodonga and makes everything much safer"

Survey respondent, female, aged 65+

Very few issues were raised regarding the road network or congestion

There were concerns raised relating to speeding, safety and parking in specific locations, however commentary regarding access to and around the city by private vehicle was not heard.



"Excellent paths in general (Wodonga), well done! The only issue is having to cross major roads at times which is not safe especially for school kids going to school as these are VERY busy times on our roads"

Survey respondent, male, aged 55-64



ENGAGEMENT THEMES & INSIGHTS

We can summarise the key findings from engagement across the following five themes.

MOVEMENT

Road Space Reallocation and Mode Separation to enable safer and improved connectivity for all modes of transport in Albury Wodonga was important for the community.

Active Transport Network Connectivity was seen in both a positive and negative light by the community, which may be driven by the varying purpose of use, for example commuting or for recreational purposes. The continuity of the network was noted as an issue due to barriers such as the Hume Freeway and the Murray River.

City and Regional Linkages to key business, employment, and activity centres by modes other than car was noted as important. The opportunity to diversify and enhance inter-model connections across Albury Wodonga was key to these linkages.



"We live out of town, but on a rail link. It is very frustrating that our kids can't get on a train in and out of Wodonga without facing a long walk to schools, shops, services as there appears to be no regular bus link from station to the town centre"

Map submission, Wodonga Rail Station

PLACE

Road Speeds and their implications for safety and practicality of roads was discussed. There was a strong desire from community members to make our streets safer regarding speeds, especially around schools.

Public Transport Amenity and Safety was a significant theme of consultation. A lack of Public Transport stop amenities such as shade or benches and network information decrease the attractiveness and ease of use of public transport.

Active Transport Amenity and Safety was a key point of discussion. 84% of survey respondents agreed that active transport should be used more often for commutes under 5 kilometres in Albury Wodonga.

Safe School Precincts and improving the connectivity of transport networks in proximity to schools were priorities identified by stakeholders. Increased safety around schools and improved infrastructure were identified as enablers for encouraging active transport journeys to schools.



"Albury Wodonga needs to be seen as one entity so that less changing of buses is required, tickets suit all services and buses connect much more efficiently"

Survey respondent, female, aged 65+



CHOICE

Intercity/National Connectivity, there was a strong desire for more reliable and frequent train services, especially to and from Melbourne, and new flight connections with Adelaide were most desired.

Legibility of the Network especially around the bus network, and wayfinding for active transport users was noted as important.

Public Transport Travel Time and Frequency were key barriers to alternative transport uptake.

Mode Shift to alternative forms of transport was positively looked upon if barriers were removed.

Culture Shift and Behaviour Change, attitudes of others, especially drivers, are hindering change to alternative modes.



“Driver attitudes towards cyclists makes it scary to ride on roads... moreover, some bike paths are used as walking trails which makes riding less enjoyable”

Survey respondent, male, aged 16-24



“The bus timetables need to be up to date and correct on all bus stops and online”

Survey respondent, female, aged 16-24

COLLABORATION

Regulation, especially cross-border was recognised as an important consideration to improve the overall transport experience.

Leadership, community recognised the need for Council leadership, individually and jointly under the 2C1C partnership, to achieve Albury Wodonga’s transport aspirations.

Partnership and Collaboration between states, cities, private entities and the community was seen as important to coordinate an effective transport system.

Communication and Awareness of transport modes available at a macro and micro scale was revealed as important to changing behaviours and attitudes. Measurable indicators to understand the progress of the Strategy and the communication of these results was also important.

Land Use Planning as a mechanism to increase transport efficiency and reduce car dependence was identified by the community.



“The path network is excellent and needs to keep up with growth corridors to continue [to be] so”

Survey respondent, male, aged 35-44

FUTURE

Big Transport Ideas to connect Albury and Wodonga included game-changing modes of transport: rapid buses, shuttle buses, trams, monorails, or a light rail corridor connecting the two cities not only physically, but socially and culturally.

Environment and Climate Change were important for the community and the trend from moving away from less sustainable modes of transport was noted.

Emerging Transport Options were considered by the community and included support for trialling and testing new transport ideas, such as Electric Vehicles, Autonomous Vehicles, ride sharing, on-demand transport, e-bikes, and e-scooters.



“Introducing alternate forms of transport will encourage the community to move away from driving everywhere”

Survey respondent, female, aged 25-34



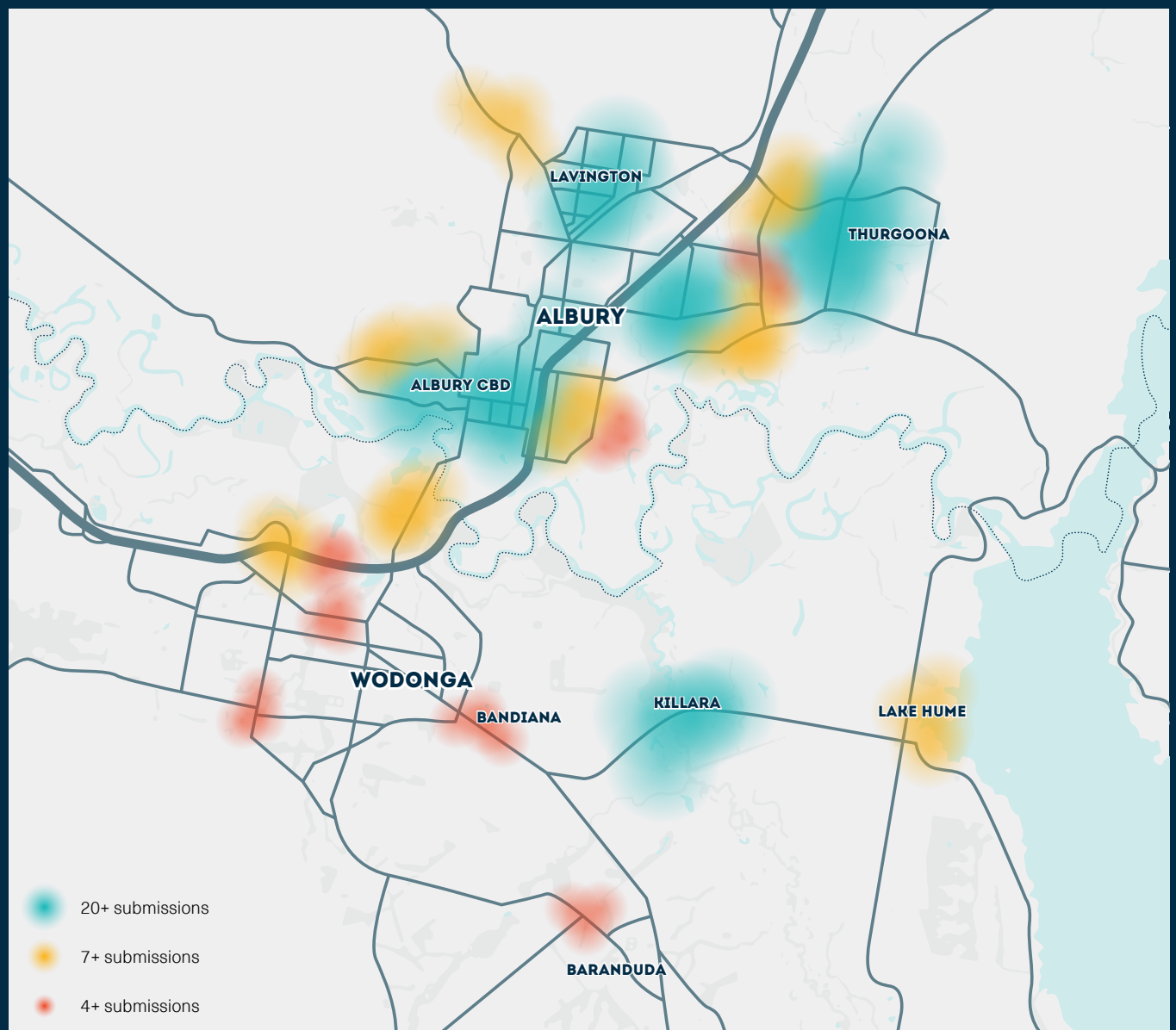
“Albury Wodonga to be connected by public transport, and there becomes less divide”

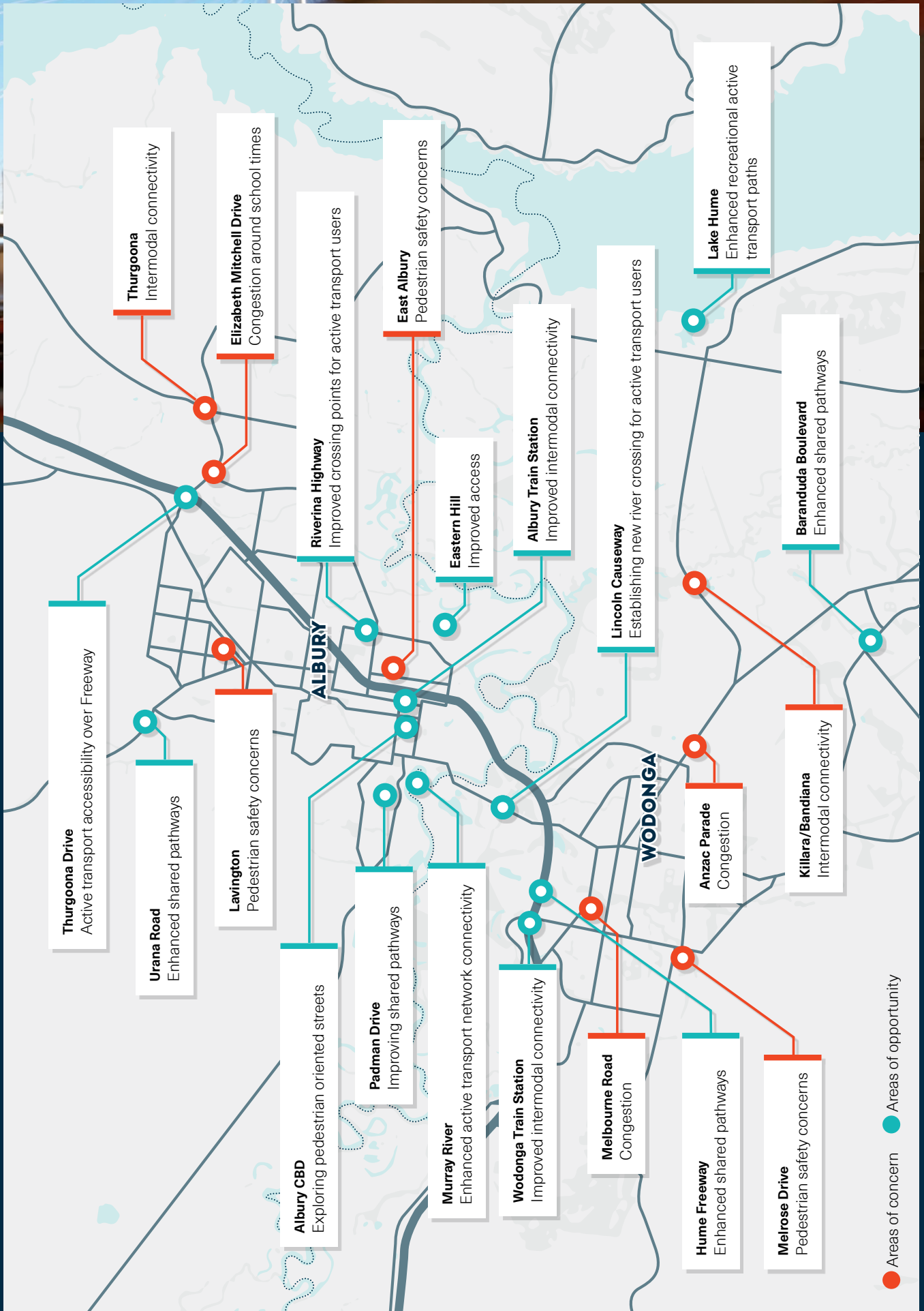
Survey respondent, male, aged 16-24

ONLINE MAP ENGAGEMENT

This map highlights the areas that our community interacted with the most on the online engagement map.

It shows the concentration of submissions and upvotes according to location, providing us with an indication of key transport hotspots. Based on map submissions and upvotes, key locations of concern and opportunity were identified.





FUTURE ALBURY WODONGA

What could the future look like for transport in Albury Wodonga?

Based on the ideas and direction from our community, the following opportunities were identified as ways to validate and achieve our shared vision for Albury Wodonga's transport network in the future.

Green Spine Linking Albury Wodonga



EV Charging Stations



End of Trip Facilities



E-scooter and e-bike Hire



Intermodal connectivity at Albury Airport at Albury and Wodonga Train Stations



Dean Street, CBD Pedestrianised





Dedicated Bike and Pedestrian Paths



Transport Network Travel Planner App



Real Time Public Transport Schedules and Improved Wayfinding



CONCLUSIONS

Encouraging integrated land use planning and transport planning to ensure growth aligns with transport needs and enables lower car dependency.

Prioritising place-based solutions and the identification of key locations for initiatives to enhance safety, accessibility, and connectivity. Embedding the Movement and Place Framework to achieve this.

Including measurable indicators for success and targets to encourage accountability and transparency in implementation.

Considering the emerging modes of transport, their policies and regulations, and ensuring the Strategy is agile and flexible to account for these.

Leveraging the capacity of Two Cities One Community partnerships, collaboration efficiencies, and resources to reduce cross-border inefficiencies.

Exploring behaviour change programs in conjunction with infrastructure initiatives to overcome barriers to alternative mode uptake and enable and encourage mode shift effectively and efficiently.

Utilising Council and 2C1C lobbying, leadership, and advocacy abilities to partner with other levels of government and encourage greater connections to the region from areas of NSW, Victoria, and the rest of Australia.



The Cube
GALLERIA





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