



Council Policy

Footpaths

Footpaths

Policy scope

This policy aims to ensure pedestrian pathways are safe, sustainable, attractive, and well-integrated with their context. This policy addresses accessibility for all, and acknowledges that paths are increasingly multi modal, with an aim to make walking the most desirable mode.

This policy applies to all footpaths in road reserves, lane ways, Public Access Ways (PAWs), footpaths in parks and other public land managed by the City of Fremantle (the City). The policy also applies to new developments and any other areas deemed appropriate by the City.

The policy is applicable for all Service Departments within the City, land and property developers, property owners, utility providers and any other organisation / individual deemed appropriate by the City.

Policy statement

Footpaths are a key transport asset that connect the community to public and private properties, recreational areas, car parks, commercial and community services. The provision, renewal, and maintenance of paths is to be undertaken in accordance with this policy.

1. Principles and Application

- 1.1 Footpaths will be provided to support access to facilities from neighbourhoods, and wayfinding to entertainment and recreation precincts and public transport.
- 1.2 The City will align footpath planning with broader urban development strategies to ensure seamless connections to key destinations and coordination with other infrastructure projects.
- 1.3 The City will aim to ensure that paths provided are fit for purpose, and consider the needs of the community, the city's topography and built environment. Where practical the path network will:
 - a. Ensure paths in streets and parks are accessible to all and provide safe, convenient routes of travel for users; and
 - b. Ensure a pedestrian (and/or cycling pathway) network and environment, that supports access to services and facilities, that is designed for all users, including vulnerable members of the community including school children, elderly people and people with disabilities.

- 1.2 In some circumstances, the City may consider footpaths being constructed on both sides of the street, subject to the following criteria:
 - a. Where the road is designated as a local, district or primary distributor;
 - b. Where a footpath is needed on both sides to provide for safe universal access to schools, community centres, local centres, public facilities, and public open spaces;
 - c. Where required in accordance with relevant planning policies;
 - d. Where existing site conditions allows for new footpath to be constructed; and/or
 - e. Where a footpath currently exists on both sides of the street.
- 1.3 New paths, upgrades and/or renewal are to be constructed based upon a priority ranking considering safety, traffic volume, road hierarchy, traffic/pedestrian risks, activity generators, linkages, path requests and bike plan recommendations.
- 1.4 The City will prioritise sustainability by using durable, permeable, and/or recycled materials where appropriate, and planning for future adaptability.
- 1.5 The City prioritises the preservation and enhancement of natural environments, favouring green spaces over concrete / hard surfaces. However, the City retains the authority to evaluate and approve exceptions to this principle on a case-by-case basis, ensuring that any deviations align with broader environmental and community goals.
- 1.6 The City is committed to creating a pedestrian-friendly environment by implementing the footpath policy where footpaths take priority over crossovers. This ensures that footpaths will be continuous and uninterrupted, providing a safe and accessible pathway for all pedestrians. Crossovers, such as driveways and vehicle access points, will be designed to maintain the integrity of the footpath.
- 1.7 This policy is to be read in conjunction with the supporting City of Fremantle Footpath Guidelines and City Streets Enhancement Strategy, which outline specific pathway palette, widths and physical location requirements tailored to different areas to maintain consistency across the City, which will contribute to creating a unified urban environment.
- 1.8 Utility Providers (including sub-contractors to the Utility Providers) undertaking essential maintenance and replacement works within the footpath are required to reinstate the area to the satisfaction of the City, and in line with this policy.

2. Community Engagement

2.1 The City, where applicable, will endeavour to:

- a. Engage the community in the planning and design process for new footpaths through public meetings, surveys, and workshops;
- b. Ensure transparency and consider public input in decision-making;
- c. Communicate decisions and project updates clearly to the public;
- d. Encourage residents to report footpath issues to the City;
- e. Ensure the reporting process is user-friendly and accessible to all;
- f. Use community feedback to prioritise maintenance and upgrade projects; and
- g. Track and respond to reports promptly and improve service.

Definitions and abbreviations

AS – Australian Standard

AS/NZS - Australian / New Zealand Standard

Footpath - Formalised surface provided for pedestrians, cyclists and rideable.

PAWs - Public Access Ways

Contractor - Refers to the person / agent or company undertaking the construction works.

Crossover - The crossover is the extension of a driveway from the edge of the property boundary to the edge of the road.

Driveway - Short private road that leads from the property boundary to garage, carport, or house.

Satisfaction of the City - Refers to the City's assessment of whether an application meets all necessary requirements and standards such as, but not limited to, compliance with regulations, quality of documentation, impact on Community and alignment with City plans.



References and Key Documents

City of Fremantle Footpath Guidelines

City Streets Enhancement Strategy

City of Fremantle Community Strategic Plan

City of Fremantle Footpaths – Asset Management Plan

City of Fremantle – Traffic Calming Policy

City of Fremantle – Narrow Streets Policy

City of Fremantle – Crossover Policy

City of Fremantle - Bike Plan

City of Fremantle - Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

Local Government Act 1995 (WA)

Land Administration Act 1997

Road Traffic Code 2000

Disability Discrimination Act 1992

Planning and Development ACT 2005

Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 6A: Paths for Walking and Cycling

Main Roads Standards and Guidelines

Local Government Guidelines for Subdivisional Development

AS/NZS 1158.1.1:2022 Lighting for roads and public spaces, Part 1.1: Vehicular traffic (Category V) lighting — Performance and design requirements

AS/NZS 1158.3.1:2020 Lighting for roads and public spaces, Part 3.1: Pedestrian area (Category P) lighting — Performance and design requirements

AS/NZS 1158.4:2015 Lighting for roads and public spaces Lighting of pedestrian crossings

AS 1428.1 Design for Access and Mobility, Part 1 - General Requirements for Access - Buildings

AS 1428.1 Design for Access and Mobility, Part 4 - Tactile Ground Surface Indicators for the Orientation of People with Vision Impairment

AS 1742.3-2009 Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 10: Pedestrian control and protection

AS 1742.9:2018 Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 9: Bicycle facilities

AS 1742.10-2009 Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 10: Pedestrian control and protection



Liveable Neighbourhoods - A WA Government Sustainable Cities Initiative

Utility Providers Code of Practice

Utility Providers Restoration and Reinstatement Specifications

Planning for Designing for Pedestrians Guidelines – Department of Transport

The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA WA) Subdivisional Guidelines - Current Edition

City of Fremantle Standard Drawings

Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places and Trading Local Law

Fremantle Harbours Context and Access Analysis Report

Fremantle Harbours Access Strategy – Final 2024

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