

## Safer Cities program – Great Places Toolkit resources

### Frequently asked questions

#### Transport for NSW | March 2024

#### What is the Safer Cities program?

Transport for NSW leads the [Safer Cities program](#) which is investing \$30 million over two years to help improve perceptions of safety in our cities and towns, particularly for women, girls and gender diverse people. The program has three aims, which are aligned with the United Nations Safer Cities for Girls program:

1. Increasing women and girls' safety and access to public spaces
2. Enabling women and girls' to move freely and alone in their community
3. Increasing women and girls' engagement with how the spaces around them are designed and managed.

The program is engaging with women, girls and gender diverse people to understand their perspectives and co-design place-based approaches to improve perceptions of safety when walking to, through and within public spaces including our streets.

Transport for NSW is working collaboratively with delivery partners within the NSW Government and with 10 local Councils across NSW to trial interventions that will deliver the objectives of the program.

Transport for NSW is also developing a public education campaign that aims to complement

infrastructure improvements delivered through the Safer Cities program.

#### Why is the program focusing on perceptions of safety?

Perceptions of safety can impact how people, particularly women, girls and gender diverse people, choose to move through our cities and towns. This can affect access to services, education, employment and leisure activities. Insights from the Transport for NSW's [NSW Safer Cities Survey Report](#) showed that 3 in 4 women would walk more if they felt safer in public spaces.

The Safer Cities program focuses on addressing this feeling of safety and its impacts on mobility. Safety is just one aspect that planning with a gender lens can help address, it can help create a step-change in how places are planned and designed and in turn how the community experience them.

#### How long is the Safer Cities program going to run for?

The Safer Cities program is running for two years, between July 2022 and June 2024.

## Why is Transport for NSW leading the Safer Cities program?

The [Future Transport Strategy](#) puts people and places at the centre of Transport for NSW's decision-making. People rely on transport to access health services, employment, education, social and leisure activities.

At its heart, the Future Transport Strategy works to deliver Transport's three high level outcomes. These are:

- Connecting our customers' whole lives
- Successful places for communities
- Enabling economic activity

The Safer Cities program contributes to achieving these high-level outcomes. The program supports the response to the following Future Transport Strategy priorities: *Equitable, accessible and secure* and *Our transport networks are safe*. This is through working with partners to improve linkages and connections through public spaces and around transport hubs, to help enable people to have greater choice and freedom in their mobility.

## Why have the draft resources been developed?

Transport for NSW has developed the draft resources to support practitioners with planning and designing safer spaces for all. These draft resources will add to the existing [Great Places Toolkit](#) to share knowledge, build capacity across sectors and inspire safer and more welcoming public spaces and transport hub precincts across NSW.

## Who are the draft resources intended for?

The draft tools and resources can be used by anyone including local government, state

agencies, industry and the community to improve perceptions of safety for the community, particularly women, girls and gender diverse people, in public spaces and transport hub precincts.

## What draft resources have been developed?

The draft resources that have been developed for consultation are:

- Community Survey tool
- Updated Evaluation Tool for Public Space and Public Life
- NSW Guide to gender inclusive placemaking
- Shaping places together: Ideas for co-designing places
- Case studies: Ideas for creating places that feel safer for women, girls and gender diverse people.

### **Community Survey tool**

This tool is designed to assist practitioners and others involved in planning, managing or creating places. It is a template, intended for anyone who is interested in understanding the quality of a public space of transport hub precinct, including people's perception of safety.

The tool has options for a 5-minute and a 10-minute survey with demographic questions, questions about accessing public spaces and transport hub precincts and how people feel when in the public space/s.

Results from completed surveys can help inform place planning, project scoping and briefs, grant applications, or to document changes in a place over time as a before and after survey.

## ***Updated Evaluation Tool for Public Space and Public Life***

The existing [Evaluation Tool for Public Space and Public Life](#) has been updated to include a section that aims to assist practitioners in evaluating a public space or transport hub precinct with a specific focus on the qualities of a place that can affect perceptions of safety.

The additional section has questions which are divided into four categories: lighting and visibility, the design of the space, amenities, and activation and people.

These categories were identified through feedback from the community during the consultation and engagement as part of the Safer Cities program.

## ***NSW Guide to gender inclusive placemaking***

This guide has been created for designers, planners, government practitioners and anyone wanting to learn more about planning, creating and activating more gender inclusive places in NSW. It highlights key principles and place-based opportunities for practitioners to improve feelings of safety and inclusivity in public spaces and transport hub precincts through a gendered lens. This guide incorporates research from Monash University XYX Lab and others.

## ***Shaping places together: Ideas for co-designing places***

This guide is intended for anyone wanting to apply a co-design process when creating or shaping public spaces such as streets or in transport hub precincts. It is intended to support new ways to embed collaboration in creating great places with, not just for, communities.

This guide outlines four key steps for co-design, including guiding principles and activities that project teams can undertake. The process and ideas within this guide can be applied to a wide variety of projects, whether at the early stages of planning or managing a new place or looking for new ways to revitalise an existing place.

## ***Case studies: Ideas for creating places that feel safer for women, girls and gender diverse people***

This document includes a selection of case studies to provide ideas on designing, managing and activating more inclusive places for women, girls and gender diverse people. The case studies are not projects funded directly by the Safer Cities program but are international exemplars to inspire ideas.

## **How have the draft resources been developed?**

The draft resources were developed through evidence-based research, engagement and consultation with local communities, in particular women and girls, Safer Cities program partners and placemaking leaders.

The resources and tools went through a peer review process with NSW State Government agencies with expertise in placemaking, place management and design as well as national and international peers such as UN-Habitat and Gehl, recognised for their expertise in public spaces, placemaking, gender in design and engagement.

## How will feedback on the draft resources be used?

Transport for NSW have released the draft resources for public comment to help inform the development of the final versions. Feedback received from the public exhibition will be reviewed and key insights incorporated into the final resources. The final resources are planned to be released later in 2024.

## Will I be informed if my feedback is taken into consideration?

All feedback will be reviewed following the consultation process. Due to the volume of feedback, we will not respond to each piece of feedback individually. The final versions of the resources will be released later in 2024, along with an engagement report summarising insights from feedback received and how this informed the final versions.

## Find out more

For more information about the Safer Cities program, get in touch at [SaferCities@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:SaferCities@dpie.nsw.gov.au). To find out more about the projects the team is working on, visit the [Safer Cities website](#).