

Walking connection

Quick Reference Guide

Walking connection

A **walking connection** is any project that uses one or a combination of the below facilities to improve the network for people walking:

- **Footpaths**
- **Raised pedestrian crossings**
- **Continuous footpath treatments**
- **Kerb extensions**
- **Shared zones**



Consider the before and after images on the next page when thinking about your project. This example shows one way of introducing new paths and connecting them with the rest of the network. What is missing in your location and how could it be improved?



Smooth paths without interruptions, hazards and undulations are more likely to encourage people to walk

Applications for **walking connection** projects will generally score higher in assessment where they deliver multiple, complimentary facilities or sections of network.

For example, a project that includes several sections of footpath, plus a raised crossing, plus a continuous footpath treatment which all work in combination to improve access to a destination or town centre, is likely to score higher than an application for one of those facilities as a stand-alone project.



Pedestrian refuges

Stand-alone pedestrian refuge projects are **not** eligible for Get NSW Active funding. A pedestrian refuge can be included as part of a broader walking connection project, however if you choose to do this, you **must** demonstrate in the application why a raised crossing, continuous footpath treatment or kerb extensions cannot be constructed in the location.

How to improve your assessment score for a walking connection project

- ✓ Provide wider paths so people can move around each other easily and comfortably, and consider making it even wider near busy areas like schools or shops where extra space is needed.
- ✓ Design projects that prioritise people walking over motor vehicles at side streets and road crossings.
- ✓ Provide continuous path levels with minimal up/down and/or start/stop movements.
- ✓ Include landscaping to buffer people from roads, provide shade, and create spaces where people enjoy walking.
- ✓ Reduce signage clutter and carefully locate bus stops to minimise hazards and barriers in the path.
- ✓ Avoid restrictive measures such as fencing and barriers.
- ✓ Include well placed supporting facilities such as seats in quiet, shaded spots, where people can take a break on their journey.

Walking connection

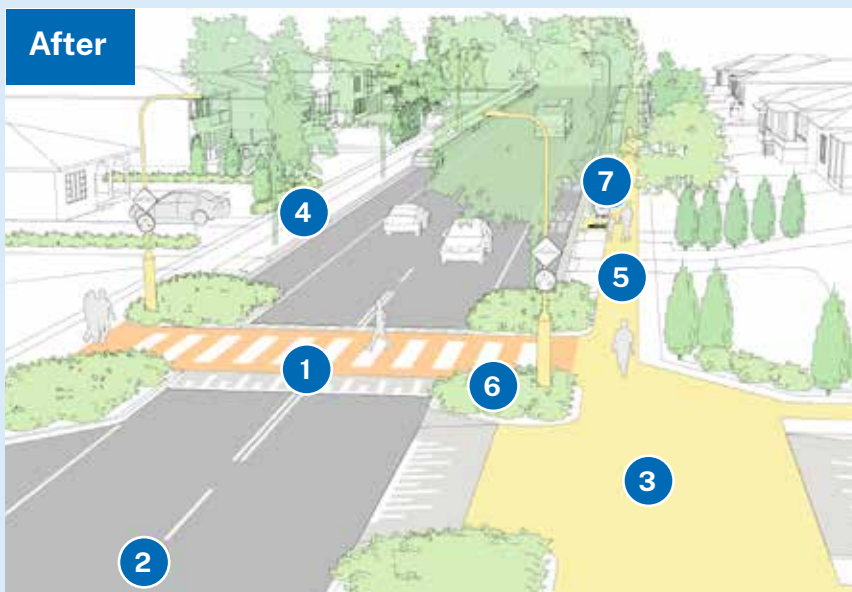
Each of the coloured improvements of the example design contribute to the assessment score. The more improvements you have, the higher your application will score.

Before



Street with missing paths and difficult road crossings

After



Street with paths, crossings and place improvements

KEY

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 <u>Mid-block crossings</u> | 4 <u>Trees in the verge</u> |
| 2 <u>Narrowed lanes</u> | 5 <u>Footpaths</u> |
| 3 <u>Continuous footpath treatment</u> | 6 <u>Low verge buffer planting</u> |
| | 7 <u>Places to stop and rest</u> |