

Appendix A – Frequently Asked Questions

The purpose of this appendix is to provide additional messaging on frequently asked questions on the Safer Cities program to support council staff and consultants with management of community enquiries.

1. What is Safer Cities: Her Way?

Safer Cities is a \$50 million multi-year program, which includes council partnerships through Safer Cities: Her Way (the Program).

Safer Cities: Her Way program is a \$25 million multi round, collaborative partnership program between Transport for NSW and local councils across NSW.

The Program is one stream of the broader Safer Cities program that provides funding for councils to deliver projects that make public spaces feel safer, more vibrant, walkable and welcoming.

2. What is the difference between Safer Cities: Her Way 1 and 2?

Safer Cities: Her Way 1 and 2 represent different rounds of the Program. There are some key differences in the design of Her Way 2 that incorporate learnings from the previous round. The rounds include:

- **Safer Cities: Her Way 1 (Her Way 1)**– was a \$10 million program delivered from 2022-2025. 10 pilot councils were funded with \$1 million each to trial and test on-the-ground projects in public space within an 800m radius of transport hubs.
- **Safer Cities: Her Way 2 (Her Way 2)** – is a \$15 million program being delivered from 2026-2028. This was open to councils across NSW to apply through an open, competitive process from 30 January to 6 March 2026. Like Her Way 1, it supports council partners to deliver place improvements through on-the-ground projects. However, Her Way 2 will also support councils to drive long-term change through the development and trial of strategic projects.

3. How much funding is available for Her Way 2?

A total of \$14.95 million in funding has been awarded to councils for Her Way 2. This is distributed between two tiers, outlined below.

- **Tier 1 – on-the-ground projects:** granted \$1 million per council (total funding available is \$13 million). This tier funds the design and delivery of place-based projects in public spaces and transport hub precincts. Projects must be located along a walking, cycling route or journey within an 800m radius of a transport hub. They must include three or more gender-inclusive placemaking initiative categories such as lighting, public art, care, event, amenities and accessibility improvements.
- **Tier 2 - strategic projects:** granted \$150,000 per council (total funding available is \$1.95 million). This tier supports the development and trial of gender-inclusive strategic projects in a town, local centre or across a Local Government Area (LGA). Categories of initiatives may include strategies, behaviour change programs and public education campaigns.

4. Why is the NSW Government investing in this Program?

The Safer Cities program forms part of a state-wide investment and comprehensive approach to injecting vibrancy into our streets and create welcoming places that supports communities across NSW. Ensuring that our transport hub precincts and public spaces, including our streets, feel safer for everyone is a key part of fostering thriving communities.

We know that that perceptions of safety impact how people choose to move through our cities and towns. This is especially true for women, girls and gender diverse people. We know that when women, girls and gender diverse people feel unsafe in public spaces, they change their behaviour. Some avoid going out at night, and some avoid going out altogether. Walkable and connected public spaces are vital for supporting people to move freely through cities and towns. Mobility is also a key enabler of social and economic development, helping people gain access to education, employment, services, and to their community.

We heard from women, girls and gender diverse people in the Safer Cities Survey Report that most women do not feel safe in public spaces after dark. When choosing travel routes, women are more likely to prioritise safety over convenience. This indicates the significance of feeling safe when moving to, through and within cities and towns.

In 2022, the NSW Government invested an initial \$30 million in the Safer Cities program to help improve perceptions of safety in our cities and towns, particularly for women, girls and gender diverse people. In 2025, the Program was expanded with an additional \$20 million in funding, bringing the total funding for the Safer Cities program to \$50 million.

5. Why is the Safer Cities Program being expanded?

The Program has received a further \$20 million in funding to build on learnings from the first round of the program that will continue to deliver initiatives that improve women's wellbeing and economic opportunities.

Round Two expands collaborative partnerships with local councils (\$15 million) and state agencies (\$5 million).

6. How will this help make spaces feel safer?

By listening to women and girls and co-designing solutions with them, we can address safety concerns like poor lighting, lack of visibility, or activation and create spaces that feel welcoming and connected.

7. Why is the project scope required to remain open ended?

Each council project is shaped by co-design and engagement with local women, girls and gender diverse people. This can help to ensure that initiatives responded to the immediate needs of the local community and the site context. This also responds to the third aim of the program: to increase women, girls and gender diverse people's engagement with how the spaces around them are designed and managed.

8. Do initiatives have to be temporary, or can they be permanent?

We aim to explore new ideas and approaches for improving perceptions of safety, which are identified through co-design and engagement with women, girls and gender diverse people. These ideas range from temporary initiatives, like one-day events and activities and temporary/semi-permanent public art murals to longer-term or permanent design solutions like new seating, lighting and even strategies or policy changes. Transport for NSW will work

collaboratively with partners to identify what types of initiatives will be implemented, and if they are temporary, semi-permanent or permanent.

Transport was one of the partner organisations that developed the first iteration of the Women's Safety Charter in March 2020 and has continued to develop projects and initiatives aimed at fostering safer and more inclusive places for women.

Transport for NSW is custodian of the refreshed [Women's Safety Charter for the Public Domain: Places and Transport](#). The Charter brings together businesses, government agencies, peak groups, and not-for-profit organisations to take collective action that improves the safety of all women, girls and gender diverse people in public places.

Most people in NSW live or work beside and travel along roads and streets¹. 80% of public space in cities is made up of streets². Through the Safer Cities program, Transport for NSW is collaborating with state agencies and local government, to help improve perceptions of safety through these key linkages. This Program addresses a significant opportunity to enable women to have greater choice and freedom in their mobility.

9. What about men feeling unsafe in public spaces too?

The feeling of safety matters for everyone. While the program focuses on women, girls, and gender-diverse people (because they report feeling unsafe more often), improvements benefit everyone.

The Safer Cities program is focused on improving the perception of safety of women, girls and gender-diverse people in public spaces, while recognising that safety concerns in public space affect almost everyone. Data from the statewide Safer Cities Survey in 2023 shows that women are twice as likely to feel unsafe in public spaces after dark compared to men, indicating a significant disparity in safety experiences.

The Program's targeted approach acknowledges that safety challenges can limit women, girls and gender diverse people's participation in public life. These groups often experience different types of safety concerns, more gender-based violence and street harassment and gender bias in the design of public spaces than men. If we co-design with women and girls considering their safety needs, our cities can become safer for everybody.

10. What is the co-design and engagement process?

The Safer Cities program aims to increase women, girls and gender diverse people's engagement with how the spaces around them are designed and managed. We will achieve this by involving women and girls in co-design and engagement in all projects delivered through the Program.

The co-design process is a collaborative and inclusive process that involves designing with community rather than for them. In the Program, this means that we are engaging with women, girls and gender diverse people to define areas for improvement in public spaces and transport hub precincts and identify solutions that would enhance their feelings of safety.

¹ Transport for NSW 2024, *Design of Roads and Streets Manual*, accessed 4 August 2025, <https://standards.transport.nsw.gov.au/search-standard-specific/?id=AST%20-%200006256%3A2024?id=AST%20-%200006256%3A2024#overhead>

² Government Architect NSW 2023, *Better Streets*, accessed 4 August 2025, <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-10/better-streets.pdf>.