

7 April 2020



The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of Adelaide
Sandy Verschoor
City of Adelaide
GPO Box 2252
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Sandy.Verschoor@cityofadelaide.com

Dear Lord Mayor

Re: Successful implementation of automated pedestrian signalling

The Heart Foundation and Walking SA are the leading organisations in South Australian championing walking and active living for health, transport and recreation.

Our vision is to see more people walking more often.

We would like to commend the City of Adelaide on its recent automation of signalised pedestrian crossings throughout the city. Research shows that automated pedestrian crossings leads to a significant reduction in vehicle-pedestrian conflicts¹.

We have received positive feedback from members of the public who applaud your initiative in taking this action.

Not only does this automation prioritise the immediate community health concerns relating to COVID-19, it also shows a demonstrable priority for public health more generally by improving the experience of pedestrians. As the environment is improved for pedestrians, more people will choose to walk to their destinations.

Given the acceptance of this 'pilot' implementation of automated signalised pedestrian crossings, the Heart Foundation and Walking SA call for the City of Adelaide to make this change permanent.

¹ Hughes, R., Huang, H., Zegeer, C., & Cynecki, M. (2000). Automated Detection of Pedestrians in Conjunction with Standard Pedestrian Push Buttons at Signalized Intersections. *Transportation Research Record*, 1705(1), 32–39. <https://doi.org/10.3141/1705-06>

Along with making this initiative permanent, we see an opportunity to alter signal timing to give pedestrians more walk time. For more information please see Walking SA's position statement on improving pedestrian signal phasing - <https://www.walkingsa.org.au/our-work/position-statements/the-green-man/>

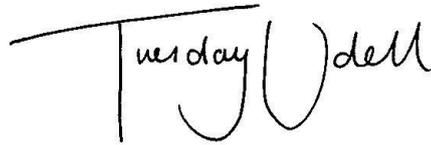
More people walking contributes to economic vitality, a carbon neutral state, reduces congestion, builds social cohesion, and promotes our state as a great place to visit and live. It also reduces burden on our health system by reducing individuals' risk of chronic disease and promoting mental wellbeing.

If you would like further information please contact the Walking SA Executive Director at office@walkingsa.org.au.

Yours sincerely



Imelda Lynch
Chief Executive SA/NT
Heart Foundation



Tuesday Udell
Chairperson
Walking SA

The Heart Foundation is the leading non-government organisation in cardiovascular health and a key agency in the area of healthy lifestyle, including healthy weight; physical activity; active, healthy communities; and healthy eating. The Heart Foundation encourages all governments and those working in the health sector to increase efforts to address chronic disease prevention, and to tackle the shared risk factors for these conditions.

Walking SA is the not-for-profit peak body that leads, promotes and supports all forms of walking in South Australia, including walking for recreation, transport, health, wellbeing, organised events, adventure, environmental appreciation and fun experiences. Our vision is to see more people walking more often. Our members include walking clubs, informal groups, individuals and organisations whose aims, and objectives align with those of Walking SA.