



GEHL ARCHITECTS
URBAN QUALITY CONSULTANTS

CITY OF SYDNEY  

George Street Concept Design

city of villages

September 2013

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Purpose of the Concept Design

The George Street Concept Design builds on the research and testing undertaken by Gehl Architects, the City and its consultants over the last year. It provides a snapshot of the key issues around integrating light rail into George Street and makes recommendations for creating a beautiful, functional and high quality public realm.

In 2012, the NSW State Government identified George Street as the preferred light rail route for the City Centre, subject to feasibility and testing. The City has developed detailed plans for the route, including stop locations, lane closures and kerb realignments to assist Transport for NSW (TfNSW) in its role of delivering the light rail project. These plans continue to evolve as more information becomes available.

The ideas contained in this study also have implications for places adjacent to George Street, like Sydney Square, Barrack Street and the laneway network. It is not the purpose of this document to develop detailed designs for these areas. Feasibility and design studies for these spaces are being undertaken separately.

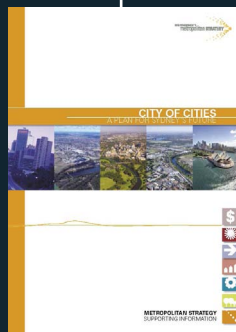
The principles and recommendations of this Concept Design, if adopted by Council, will be submitted to TfNSW for incorporation into the project.

Past Studies and Guiding Documents

George Street Concept Design

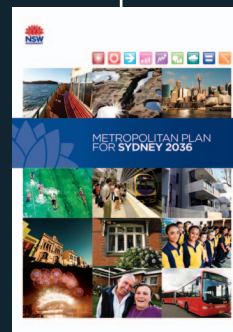
**A City of Cities:
Metropolitan Strategy**
NSW Government

2005



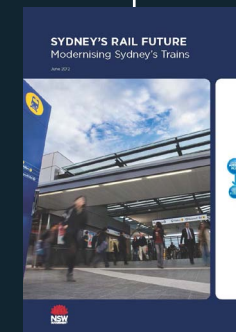
**Metropolitan Plan for
Sydney 2036**
NSW Government

2010



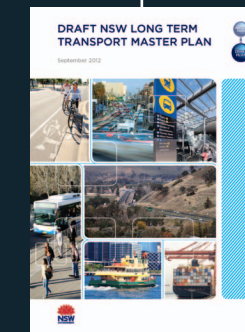
**Sydney's Rail Future:
Modernising Sydney's Trains**
NSW Government

2012

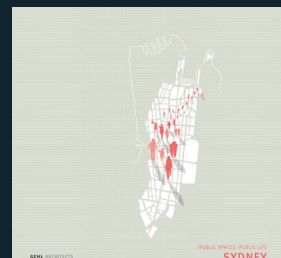


**Draft NSW Long Term
Transport Master Plan**
NSW Government

2012

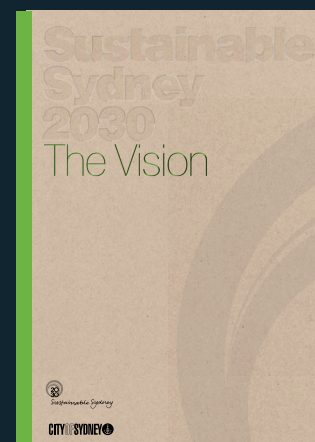


2013



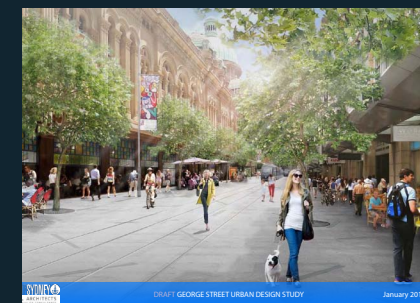
2007

Public Spaces, Public Life
Gehl Architects



2008

Sustainable Sydney 2030: The Vision
City of Sydney



2012

George Street Urban Design Study
City of Sydney and Gehl Architects



2012

George Street Concept Design
City of Sydney

2013

Summary __

Public Spaces, Public Life

Gehl Architects 2007

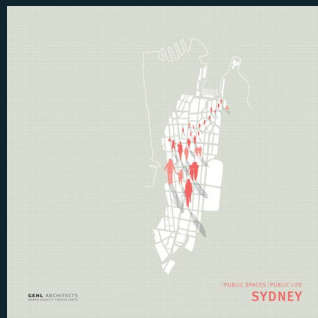
In 2007 the City commissioned Gehl Architects to create a blueprint to turn Sydney's City Centre into a people-friendly, public transport-oriented and green city.

The report reviews how people use our public spaces and streets. It assesses how they move around and how our public spaces could better promote public life and outdoor leisure. The report provides us with a benchmark to measure our city against others including London, Copenhagen and Stockholm. The report provides a comprehensive set of ideas to transform the city, one of which is the George Street transformation.

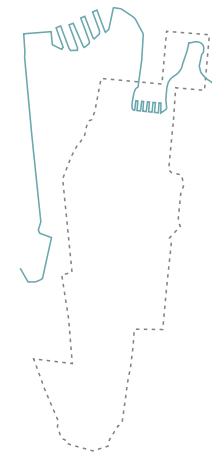
Key findings:

- **An introverted city**
- **A traffic dominated city**
- **A mono-functional city**
- **A high city**
- **A lack of street hierarchy**
- **Scattered open spaces**

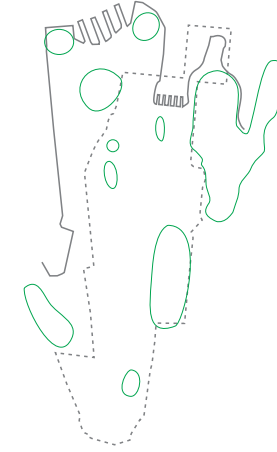
We want a city of people; a city where people feel safe; a city that is interesting and lively. Jan Gehl



Recommendations

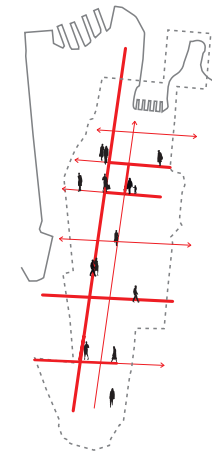


a waterfront city

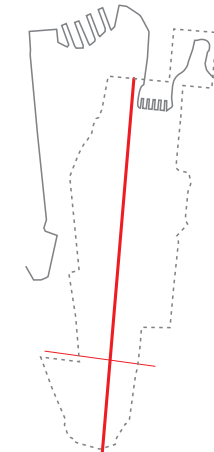


a green connected city

capitalise on the amenities

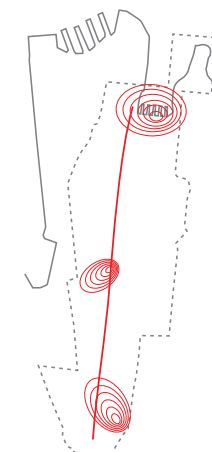


a better city for walking

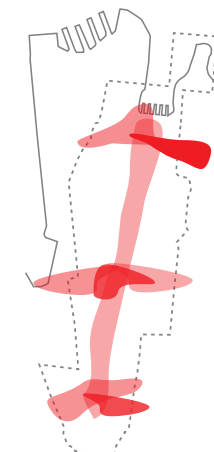


a strong public transport system

a 21st century traffic system



a strong city identity



a diverse and lively city

an attractive public realm

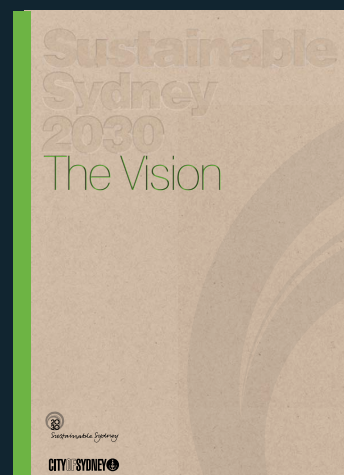
Summary __

Sustainable Sydney 2030

City of Sydney 2008

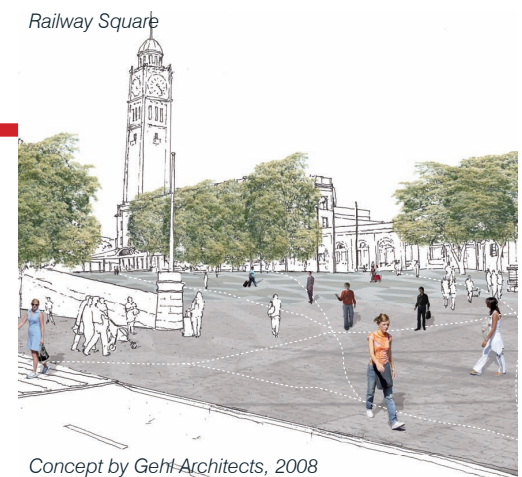
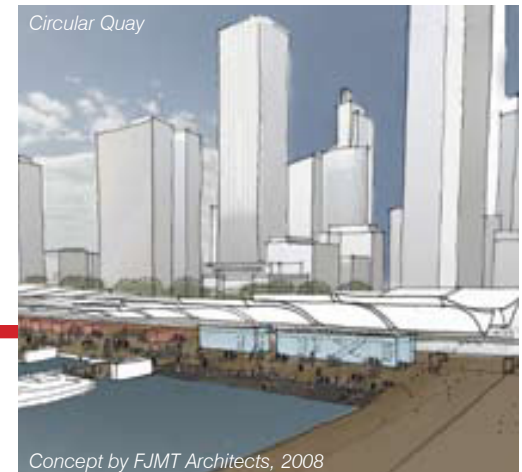
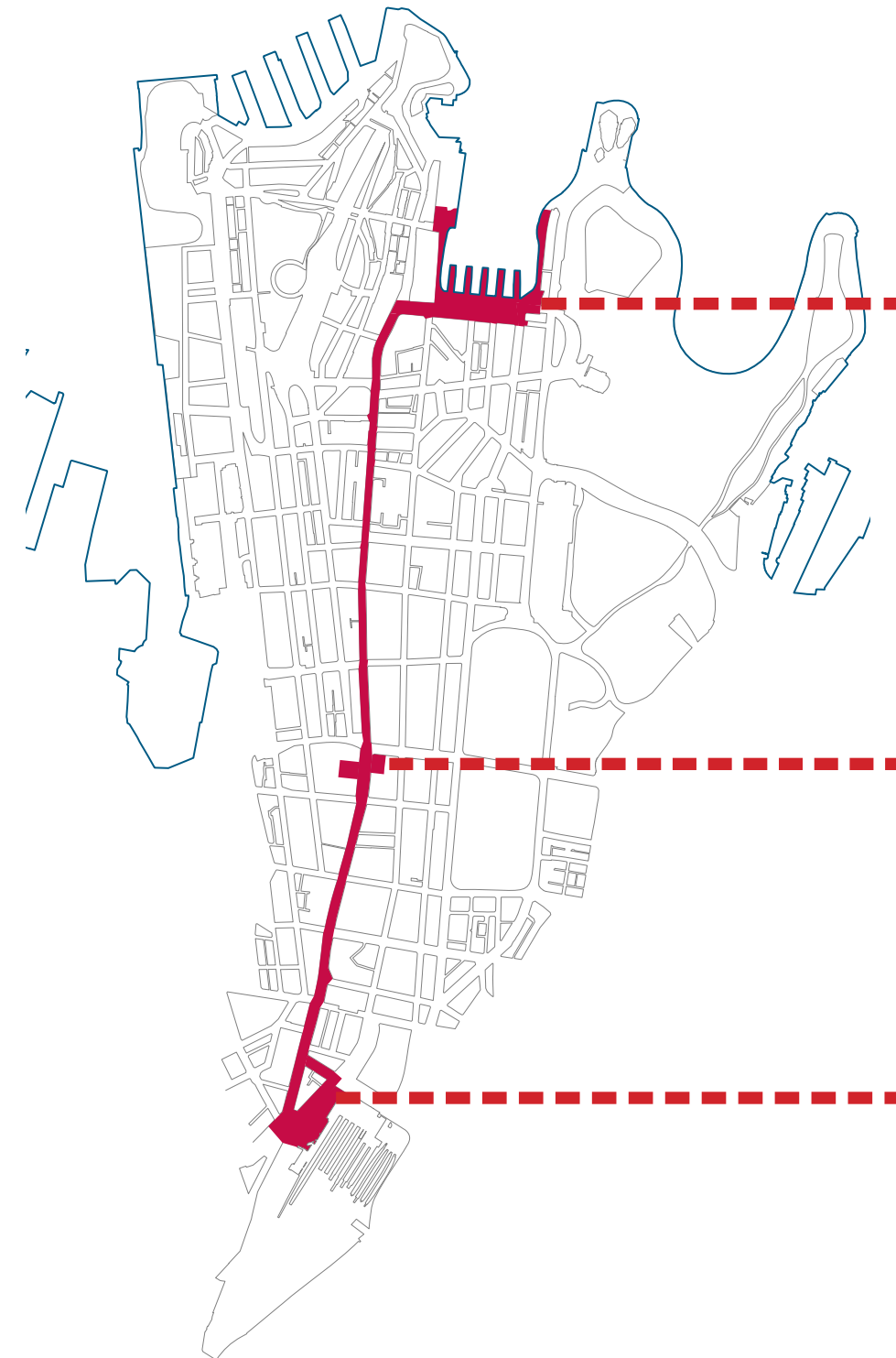
Sustainable Sydney 2030
has a vision of a Green,
Global, and Connected City.

The George Street transformation is fundamental to the ideas and aspirations described in Sustainable Sydney 2030. Sustainable development is not just about the physical environment, but about the economy, society and culture as a whole. To address each, Five Big Moves, Ten Strategic Directions, Ten Project Ideas, coupled with strong governance, will result in better outcomes for current and future communities. One of the Ten Project Ideas relates directly to the George Street transformation, to create and connect three city squares on the George Street thoroughfare.



- Five Big Moves
- Ten Strategic Directions
- Ten Project Ideas

Project Idea 2: Three Linked City Squares

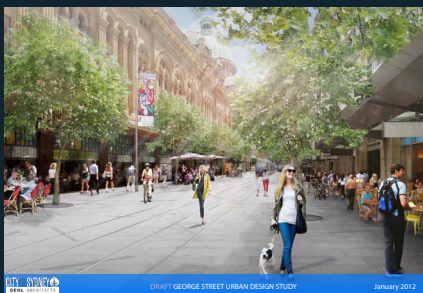


Summary __

George Street Urban Design Study

City of Sydney with
Gehl Architects 2012

The George Street Urban Design Study sets design principles for transforming George Street into a pedestrian boulevard.



What makes a great street?

Memorable streets have common features. They are places for people and are designed with them in mind. Typically, a good pedestrian street features:

- Generous footpaths
- Lighting for people
- Trees and shade
- Active and open facades
- Street furniture
- Human scale
- Artworks and cultural markers



Figure A

What do we have now?

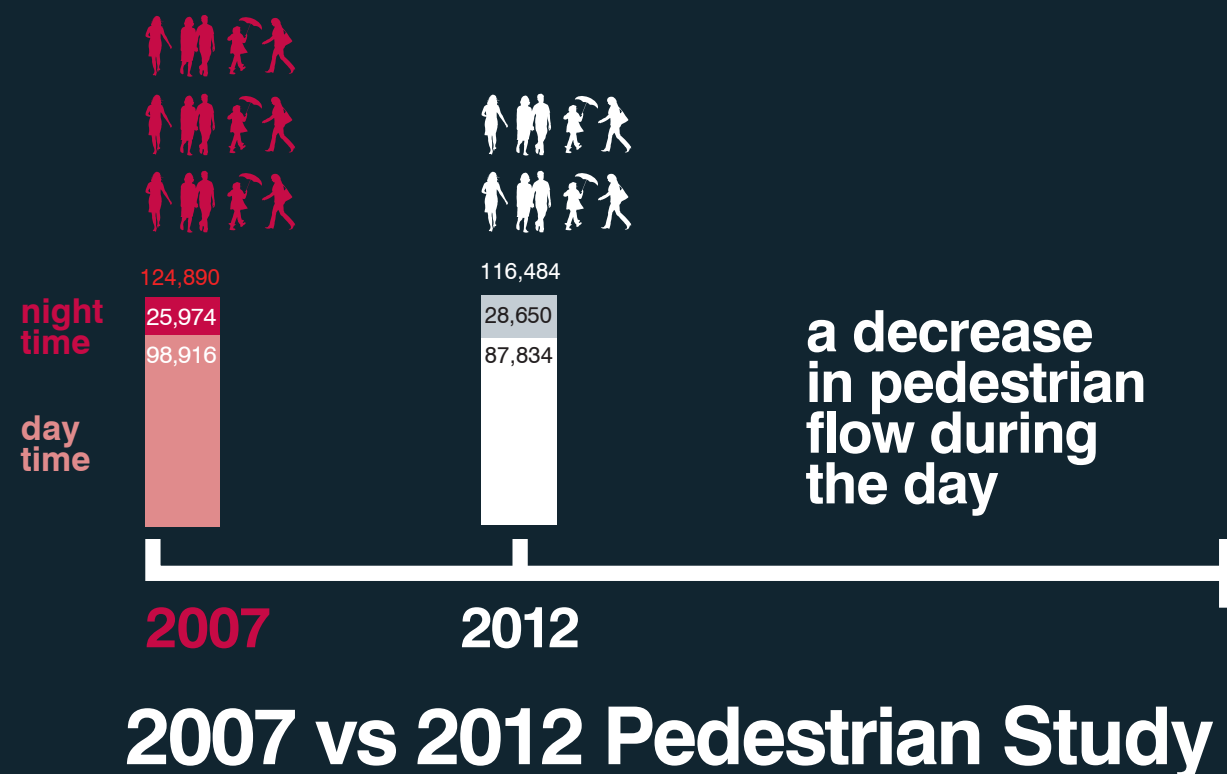
George Street is overloaded. It no longer functions efficiently for either pedestrians or vehicles. George Street is characterised by:

- Low pedestrian priority
- An overload of buses
- Poor pedestrian amenity
- Noise
- Closed frontages and facades
- No cycling facilities

Facts

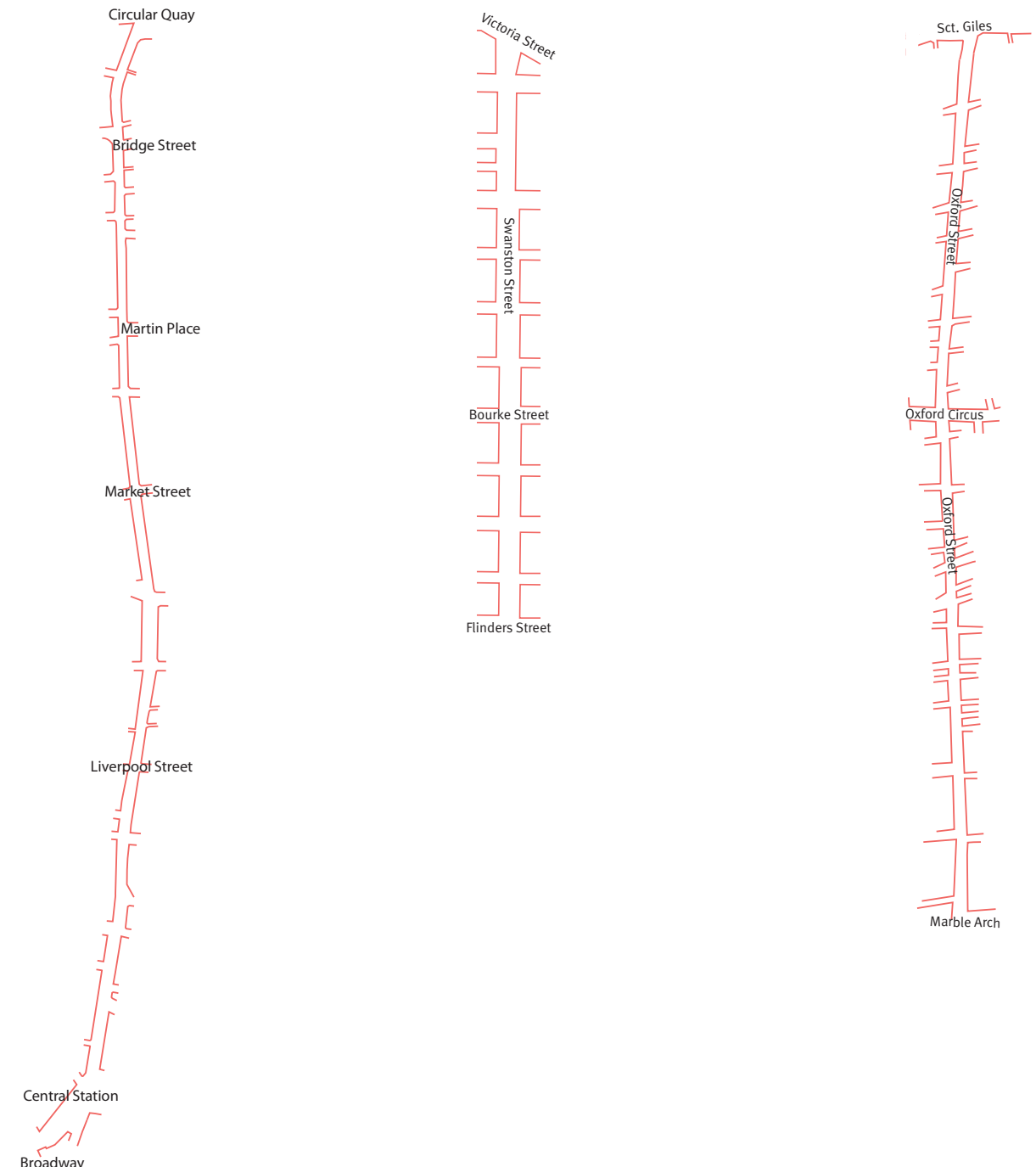
6,000 buses arrive in the City Centre every week day.

192 bus routes part of the City Centre network



Case study comparison

Footpath width and pedestrian numbers at a single location



George Street, Sydney

Total length 2,550m
Street width 22.30m
Footpath width 4-6m

Number of weekday pedestrians: 39,780

Swanston Street, Melbourne

Total length 1,270m
Street width 30m
Footpath width 8m

Number of weekday pedestrians: 57,280

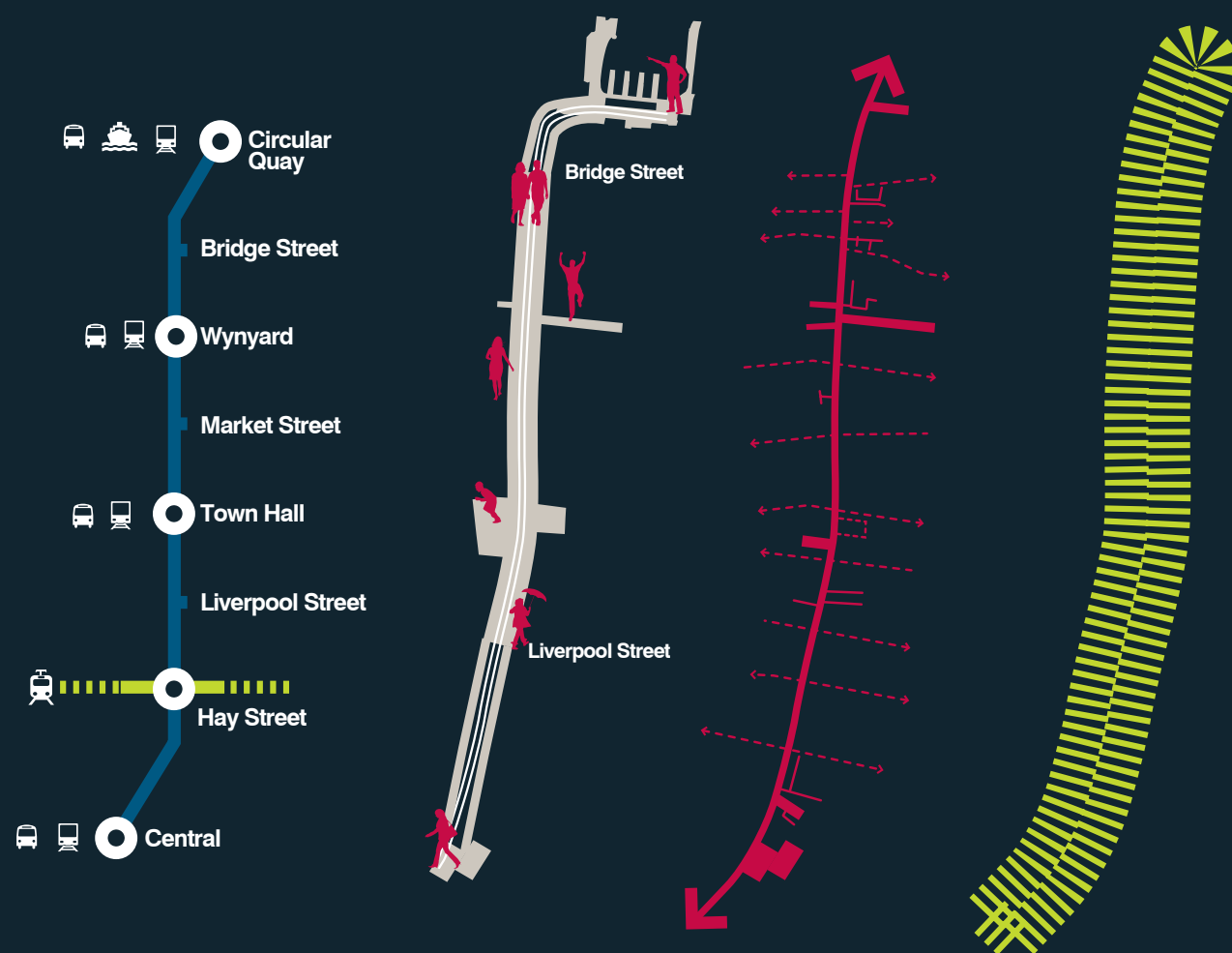
Oxford Street, London

Total length 2,000m
Street width 26m
Footpath width 6-9m

Number of weekday pedestrians: 126,360

How do we fix it? —

Seven key principles

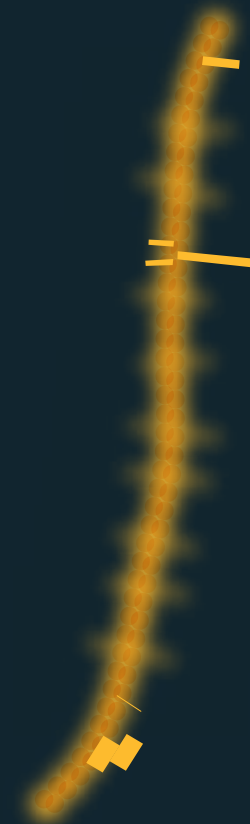


01
An efficient
transport
spine

02
A pedestrian
focused
boulevard

03
A legible
spine

04
An iconic
street



05
A 24-hour
street



06
Linking the
city to the
harbour



07
Connecting
three great
squares

George Street Concept Design

City of Sydney with
Gehl Architects

This document sets out the design principles that will guide the detailed design of George Street. It outlines strategies and concepts for improving the public realm in concert with the State Government's light rail project.

The ideas and images in this document have been tested to ensure that the City's \$220 million investment is spent wisely and can achieve the public benefit that we strive for.

How we deliver on the vision —

Eight elements

- 01** Light Rail
- 02** Light Rail Stops
- 03** Paving
- 04** Trees
- 05** Furniture
- 06** Lighting
- 07** Art
- 08** The Edges

