

# City of Kingston: social needs, gaps in transit

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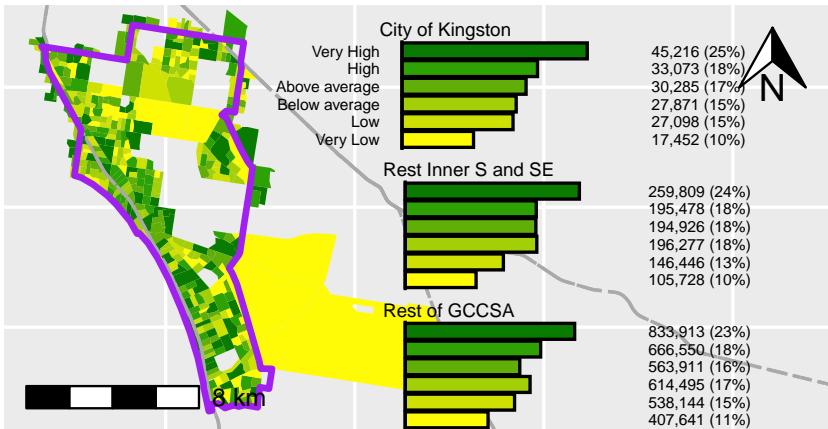
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This note explores social needs for transport, and transit provision in the City of Kingston, using the Currie and Sendbergs (2007) methodology<sup>1</sup>. In Victoria, public transport is managed by the state government, although Local Government Authorities (LGAs) may have influence through planning processes, advocacy etc. However, it is unclear how much transit is supplied or how well social needs are met for each LGA. This note examines the City of Kingston in 2021 and 2023, and is part of a series on LGAs in Greater Melbourne<sup>2</sup>.

## METHODS:

Scores for transit supply and transport needs were calculated based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data and the Victorian GTFS feed<sup>3</sup> using the *gtfssupplyindex* R package<sup>4</sup> as per Reynolds, Currie and Qu (in drafting)<sup>5</sup>. Results are shown for the ABS' Statistical Area 1s (SA1s), categorized based on averages across the Melbourne Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA).

RESULTS: Social needs for transport in Kingston in 2021 and comparison with the Rest of the Inner South and South East SA4s<sup>6</sup> and the rest of Greater Melbourne by population are shown in Figure 1.



Social needs for transport were higher than the Melbourne average for 60.0% of the Kingston population. This is similar to elsewhere<sup>7</sup>.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of transit service in 2021 and 2023. Transit service levels were below the Melbourne average for 75.6% of Kingston residents in 2021. This is a low proportion than for the

<sup>1</sup> Graham Currie and Zed Senbergs, "Identifying Spatial Gaps in Public Transport Provision for Socially Disadvantaged Australians: The Melbourne 'Needs Gap' Study," 2007; Graham Currie, "Quantifying Spatial Gaps in Public Transport Supply Based on Social Needs," *Journal of Transport Geography* 18, no. 1 (2010): 31-41.

<sup>2</sup> See [https://github.com/James-Reynolds/gtfssupplyindex\\_melbourne\\_LGA\\_2024](https://github.com/James-Reynolds/gtfssupplyindex_melbourne_LGA_2024) but lookout, I misspelled "Melbourne"

<sup>3</sup> Note that results are based on the GTFS feeds for August 2021 and 2023, so may not match services run.

<sup>4</sup> See <https://github.com/James-Reynolds/gtfssupplyindex>

<sup>5</sup> James Reynolds, Graham Currie, and Yanda Qu, "Social Needs for Transport and Gaps in Transit Service: New GTFS Tools," *In Drafting*, 2024.

<sup>6</sup> LGAs: Monash, Bayside, Dandenong, Glen Eira, Casey, (almost all of) Cardinia, part of Stonnington. Figure 1: Needs in 2021 by population. Railway lines shown in grey.

<sup>7</sup> Differences were not statistically significant with either the rest of the Inner South and South East SA4s ( $\chi^2(5) = 2.34, p = .801$ ) or the rest of Greater Melbourne ( $\chi^2(5) = 2.66, p = .752$ ).

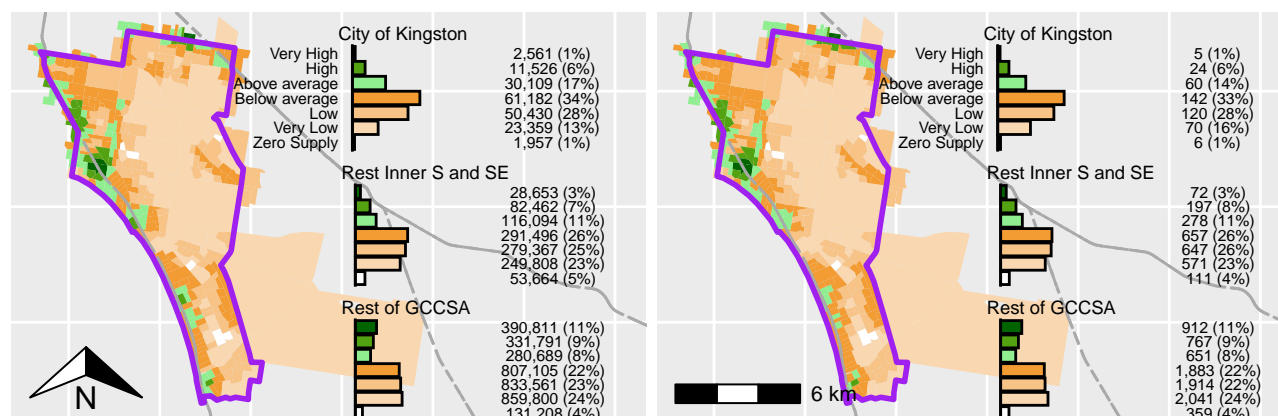


Figure 2: Transport Supply 2021 (left, by population) and 2023 (right, by SA1)

<sup>8</sup> Differences were statistically significant ( $\chi^2(6) = 31.98, p < .001$ ).

<sup>9</sup> Differences were statistically significant ( $\chi^2(6) = 111.05, p < .001$ ).

rest of the Inner South and South East SA4s (79.4%)<sup>8</sup>, but higher than for the rest of Melbourne (72.4%)<sup>9</sup>. The distribution of transit supply, categorised with respect to the Melbourne average, appears similar in 2023 (Figure 2, right). Figure 3 compares 2021 and 2023 service.

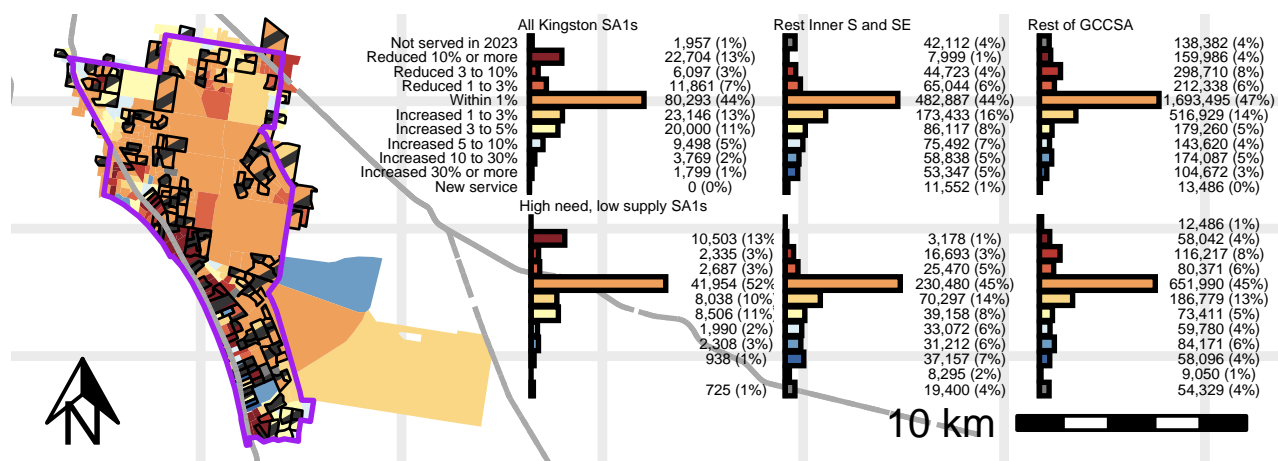


Figure 3: Transit change 2021 to 2023.

SA1s with needs above, but supply below, average highlighted in black.

<sup>10</sup> Differences between Kingston and the rest of the Inner South and South East in how transit levels changed between 2021 and 2023 were not statistically significant ( $\chi^2(5) = 2.34, p = .801$ ), nor were differences between Kingston and the rest of the Greater Melbourne ( $\chi^2(5) = 2.66, p = .752$ ).

<sup>11</sup> Shown with black in Figure 3. This compares to 46.7% of Inner South and South East SA4 residents and 39.7% of those elsewhere in Melbourne.

<sup>12</sup> Differences were statistically significant between Kingston and the rest of the Inner South and South East SA4s ( $\chi^2(10) = 105.17, p < .001$ ), but not statistically significant between Kingston and the rest of Greater Melbourne ( $\chi^2(5) = 2.66, p = .752$ ).

Transit levels increased by 1% or more for 76.5% of Kingston residents between 2021 and 2023<sup>10</sup>. 44.2% of the Kingston population lived in SA1s with *needs above, but supply below* the Melbourne averages in 2021<sup>11</sup>. For 28.1% of this cohort service levels increased 1% or more by 2023, a lower proportion than for the similar cohort in the rest of the Inner South and South East SA4s (46.4%)<sup>12</sup>.

Overall, Kingston residents had less transit than others in the Inner South and South East SA4s, but more than those elsewhere. Change between 2021 and 2023 was similar in Kingston to Melbourne overall, but those with greater needs-gaps in Kingston saw less improvement than others in the rest of the Inner South and South East SA4s.