

*Clarinox worked with volunteers from Vision Australia to demonstrate a wireless audio guidance system. The system provided instructions to assist a person to easily navigate through the Melbourne CBD without the aid of sight. The information provided included notification of building work, trip hazards on footpaths and the location of tram stops.*

## Vision Impairment

The chance of vision difficulties increases with age and so this is a problem that is becoming more apparent with the aging of the Australian population. Vision Australia is a not for profit organisation that assists people to deal with the everyday practical issues that arise when dealing with visual impairment.

## Clarinox Role

Clarinox provided electronic handheld devices to the volunteers. Bluetooth streamed audio wirelessly to the volunteers handheld upon their approach to location servers (X on the Figures). The audio notified of trip hazards (Fig. 1c), location of tram stops (Fig. 1a) and pedestrian crossings (Fig. 1b).

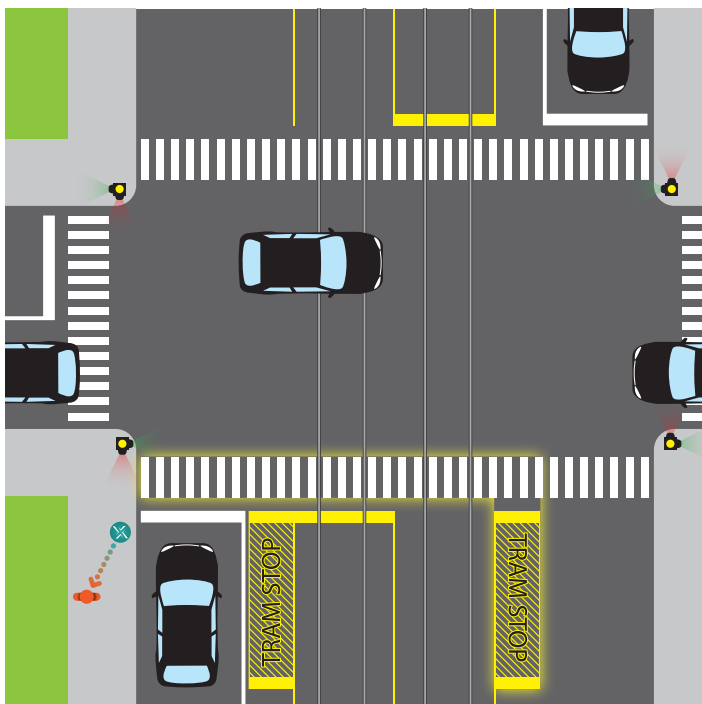


Figure 1a: The system solved the issue of inconsistency in tram stop location

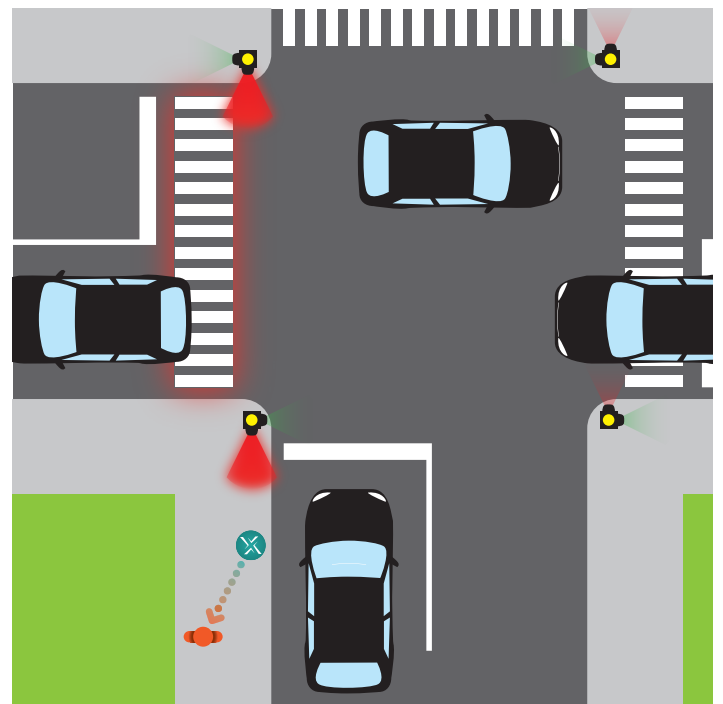


Figure 1b: Information on how to navigate intersections was provided.

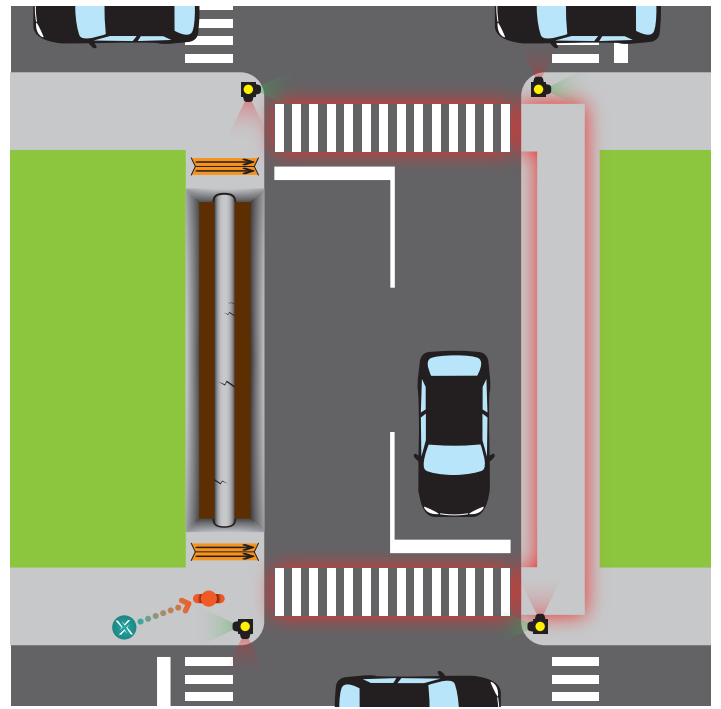
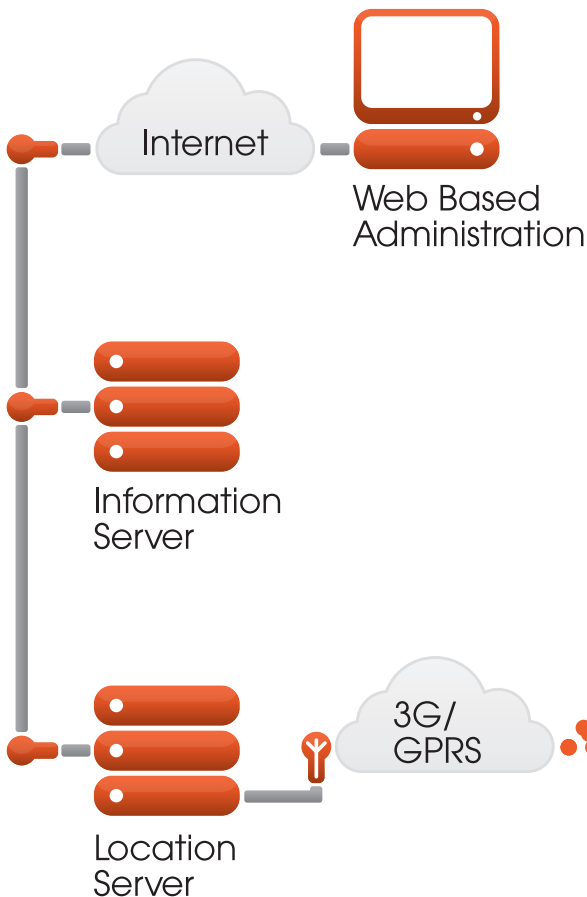
## Project Outcome

The City of Melbourne is proud of the fact that Melbourne has received the world's most liveable city award many times over. The trial of the system for the vision impaired allowed the City of Melbourne to promote its proactive approach to improving access to the city for all citizens.

## Future Plans

Participants expressed enthusiasm in the demonstration of the system and were keen to raise the funding to provide such a system on a larger scale, more permanent, basis.

*Figure 1d: Main system elements from the user perspective is the individual portable device and the location server that streams information to the user. These elements are supported from a web enabled system to allow remote updating of information and the relaying of these updates through the information server and then to the user.*



*Figure 1c: Advance warning of the location of construction zones and other trip hazards was provided along with instructions on how to move by an alternate path.*

