

Media Release

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Big challenges for public transport in Budget

The Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF) calls on the State Government budget to accelerate urgent public transport projects in the Victorian Transport Plan and prioritize these ahead of road projects such as the Peninsula and Greensborough links.

MTF Chair, Cr Jackie Fristacky, emphasised that “Investment in public transport has far superior job creation, economic, environmental, equity and safety benefits. It would also help restore Melbourne’s declining liveability ranking”

Recent research by MetLink shows that more than 90% of Victorians place public transport spending well above road spending, tax cuts and fuel prices.

“Enhancing our public transport infrastructure is one of the most effective means of helping to spur economic recovery from the recession”, she said.

The Forum welcomes the Premier’s commitment on Friday to commence construction of the Epping South Morang Rail extension in early 2010 and complete this by 2013. The Forum also seeks budget funding for the following public transport projects:

- Planning for the rail from South Morang to Mernda;
- Re-introduction of the rail service from Cranbourne to Cranbourne East;
- The Dynon to Domain rail tunnel, irrespective of federal funding;
- Commencing the Regional Rail link from Southern Cross to Sunshine, then Sunshine to Werribee through Tarneit;
- Electrification of rail lines to Sunbury, and Melton;
- New rail stations at Lynbrook, Cardinia Road, Williams Landing, Point Cook, and Caroline Springs;
- Completion of orbital bus services and the Doncaster Area Rapid Transit bus service;
- Staffing at rail stations and extra police on trains and trams at night;
- Upgrading signaling, tracks, and bus, tram and train service levels;
- Public transport investments to support the Central Activities Districts of Footscray, Broadmeadows, Box Hill, Ringwood, Frankston and Dandenong .

The MTF challenges the Government to complete these projects to achieve the goal of carrying 30% of motorized trips by public transport by 2030, and 50% by 2050”, Cr Fristacky said.

The MTF represents 19 Councils in metropolitan Melbourne.

Media enquiries:

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