

Sustainable Melbourne Alliance

For transport and urbanism

MEDIA RELEASE

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‘Shovel ready’ sustainable transport and planning projects deliver double value’

The Sustainable Melbourne Alliance for Transport and Urbanism is looking for major investment in sustainable transport infrastructure and services in tomorrow’s state budget.

‘Transport and urban development projects which are ‘shovel ready’ – where work could start in the next six months- include rail extensions and electrifications, new stations, expanded bus services, local manufacturing of trains, trams and buses, and bike lane and paths’ said the Executive Officer of the Alliance, Ms Janet Rice.

‘We welcome the commitment that has been announced to build the rail extension to South Morang’ Ms Rice said. ‘We are hoping that more sustainable transport projects will be given express treatment in tomorrow’s budget.’

‘The Alliance is preparing a report on ‘shovel ready’ sustainable transport and urban development projects’, Ms Rice said. ‘This report will focus on projects where work could begin in the next six months and will outline the ‘double value’ of investing in these projects, with benefits to both the economy and the environment.’

‘Research from the United States shows that public transport construction projects typically generate 19% more jobs than if the same amount of money was spent on road projects’ Ms Rice said.

The Alliance represents a range of organisations committed to increased investment on public transport, walking and cycling, and an end to Melbourne’s urban sprawl. They include Environment Victoria, Public Transport Users Association, VCOSS, Metropolitan Transport Forum and GAMUT Centre at University of Melbourne.

‘The public transport projects we suggest are all included in the Victorian Transport Plan. There’s no reason why they shouldn’t have been included in tomorrow’s budget, said Daniel Bowen, President of Public Transport Users Association.’

‘Sustainable transport and planning projects deliver jobs for people in construction, and they result in quality public transport which makes life more affordable for people struggling through the economic downturn’, said CEO of VCOSS, Cath Smith

‘Local government can turn around cycle and walking projects very quickly’, said Chair of Metropolitan Transport Forum, Cr Jackie Fristacky. They will deliver immediate jobs and immediate community benefit where it’s needed most.’

Cr Fristacky added: ‘These projects will deliver results on climate change by making it easier for people to leave their cars at home, unlike major new road projects.’

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See over for a list of proposed ‘shovel ready’ projects

Proposed 'shovel ready' projects

- Extension of the rail line to South Morang, with the extension to Mernda planned and built by end 2010
- Extension of rail line to Cranbourne East
- Electrification of Sunbury rail line
- Third track for regional rail between Footscray and Sunshine
- All the new stations outlined in the Victorian Transport Plan, including Caroline Springs, Lyndhurst and Williams Landing
- Track duplication as outlined in the Victoria Transport Plan
- Local manufacturing facilities for trains, trams and buses
- Increased maintenance of suburban and regional rail, including replacement of wooden sleepers
- Upgrades to signaling
- Busway to service the Aurora development in City of Whittlesea
- Doncaster Area Rapid Transport upgraded bus services
- Increased off peak frequency of buses, trams and trains
- Upgrades to cycling and walking routes to stations
- Commitment to 1:1 funding contribution for all cycling projects funded under the Commonwealth Governments Jobs Fund