

Media Release

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Councils urge Better Stations budget funding

The Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF) calls on the State Government in its 2012/13 budget, to spend between \$5 and \$10 million a year renovating sub-standard train stations.

The MTF, representing local councils, estimates this modest allocation would cover rapid improvements to between 10 and 20 rail stations a year.

MTF Chair, Cr Jackie Fristacky, said that a MTF survey shows that “key issues with commuters are that many stations suffer from lack of shelter, lighting, platform repairs, and functioning toilets. This makes the beginning and end of millions of trips an unpleasant experience.”

The MTF has sent its “Better Stations” report to the Transport Minister, Terry Mulder, requesting that his government liaise with local councils on an annual program to upgrade rail stations.

The MTF compliments the Government on new station facilities at Williams Landing, Ringwood, Epping and South Morang, but suggests that upgrades to other stations can be achieved much more cheaply. Poor station facilities discourage people from using public transport, in turn encouraging more car use, especially single occupant trips at peaks. This creates more congestion, collisions, hospital and health costs, and emissions, which reduces state domestic product.

The MTF also seeks budget funding for other sustainable transport initiatives:

- Harnessing new technology to achieve better utilization of spare transport capacity in taxis, buses and sole occupant vehicles through ride sharing and travel demand management;
- Better integration of rail stations with major activity centres in Coburg, Greensborough, Box Hill, Richmond and Sunshine;
- Examining key tram extensions;
- Implementation of Metropolitan Bus Reviews;
- Planning for rail from South Morang to Mernda, from Epping to Aurora/ Epping North, with other growth corridor development such as in Casey/Cardinia to be matched with high standard regular public transport;
- Long term strategic approach focusing on rail as the primary freight mover.

The MTF represents 22 Councils covering 2.9 million people in metropolitan Melbourne.

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The Better Stations report is available at
http://www.pt4me2.org.au/downloads/Better_stationsDec2011.pdf

The MTF budget submission is available at:
<http://www.pt4me2.org.au/downloads/MTFbudgetsubmission201213.pdf>

This media release is available at <http://www.pt4me2.org.au/media/index.html>