



For media enquiries:
Yarra Access
City of Yarra
Telephone (03) 9205 5120
Facsimile (03) 8417 6666
Mobile 0438 664 050
PO Box 168 Richmond 3121

Media Release

18 May 2009

Historic shift in federal transport funding

The Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF) congratulates PM Kevin Rudd on the huge federal budget allocation to Victorian public transport as the PM visits Melbourne celebrating this budget win. The MTF highlights the historic nature of this federal allocation to urban transport.

Cr Jackie Fristacky, MTF Chair, and City of Yarra councillor said that "the budget allocations to develop public transport reflected a massive shift in federal government thinking." This is historic compared with any other infrastructure budget in Australia's history. Rail achieved 55% of the federal transport budget.

Victoria achieved the most significant allocation of \$3.2 billion for Melbourne's Regional Rail Link to create a dedicated V-line route from Werribee to Southern Cross via Sunshine. Victoria also received \$40 million to support planning for Melbourne's Dynon to Domain metro rail tunnel via Melbourne University and the Parkville hospital/research precinct.

Cr Jackie Fristacky said "the Federal government now recognises that investment in passenger transport is not solely a state responsibility, but is critical to nation building and the national economy."

"This is a critical shift in federal thinking."

Cr Fristacky emphasised the superior job creation benefits in rail projects over road building; investing in rail is one of the most effective means of helping spur economic recovery.

"This is why the Frankston bypass and other road project were not allocated federal funding. They just did not stack up under the rigorous cost-benefit analysis by Infrastructure Australia," Cr Fristacky said.

"This recognises that urban road projects, in cities saturated with car transport, can no longer work to achieve transport efficiency or to congestion reduction".

The MTF represents 19 Melbourne metropolitan Councils.

Media enquiries:

Cr Jackie Fristacky, Chair Metropolitan Transport Forum
0412 597 794

MEDIA RELEASE

