

## Councils call for public transport budget spending to meet the needs of a growing city

**MTF Priorities for State Budget 2010/11**

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The Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF) presented its submission on the 2010/11 State Budget to Minister Lynne Kosky today. The submission called on the Government to fund improved integration and frequencies of train, tram and bus services. The MTF seeks trams running at least every 10 minutes on all routes until 9pm weekdays, and 15 minutes at all other times.

MTF Chair, Cr Jackie Fristacky, said that while attention has been on the high profile plight of trains, the currently well-performing tram network was neglected in the Victorian Transport Plan (VTP). 'The MTF asks for this to be remedied with additional trams to take Melbourne's tram fleet to 600 trams by 2016 (currently 500). Tram priority should be accelerated through more accessible tram stops, traffic metering and increased priority for trams at traffic signals.'

Cr Fristacky, said that the MTF also sought budget funding to examine tram extensions, particularly Routes 75, 48, 57, 59, and 112. The MTF continues to press for planning rail extensions to Mernda, Epping North, Rowville and Doncaster.

The MTF asks that the State Budget fund implementation of bus reviews undertaken in 2008/09. 'Only 4 of 12 bus review reports have been finalised and published. The MTF urges that high priority be given to finalisation and implementation of these reviews,' said Cr Fristacky.

The MTF seeks a near tripling of the SmartBus network. 'This is justified by SmartBus patronage growth, and as 80 per cent of Melbourne residents are distant from train and tram services,' said Cr Fristacky.

On rail freight, the MTF asks for specific portfolio responsibility to be allocated to a Minister tasked with the objective of increasing share of freight to rail.

The MTF considers that budget savings should be identified through a rigorous analysis of all State expenditure with priority given to service delivery and infrastructure development over administration.

The MTF represents 18 Councils covering over 2 million people in metropolitan Melbourne.

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