

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL  
27 JULY 2009**

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<b>5.</b>	<b>CITY OF PORT PHILLIP PUBLIC TRANSPORT ADVOCACY STATEMENT</b>
<b>LOCATION/ADDRESS:</b>	<b>CITYWIDE</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:</b>	<b>GREG WOOD, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING</b>
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>RAOUL WAINWRIGHT, SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT PLANNER</b>
<b>FILE NO.:</b>	
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<b>1. PUBLIC TRANSPORT NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY  2. CITY OF PORT PHILLIP PUBLIC TRANSPORT ADVOCACY STATEMENT</b>

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**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 A City of Port Phillip Public Transport Advocacy Statement has been prepared.
- 1.2 The Statement has been prepared based on community research of public transport gaps, needs and wants.
- 1.3 The Statement identifies achievable improvements to the local public transport network.
- 1.4 The Statement is consistent with State Government policy, and particularly the Victorian Transport Plan.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That Council endorses the recommendations of the 'City of Port Phillip Public Transport Advocacy Statement' as follows:

- 2.1 The City of Port Phillip will advocate for the following public transport measures:-

**BUS**

- 2.1.1 Urgent action to improve the 606 bus route timetable.
- 2.1.2 Consideration of an effective bus link from Elwood to Port Melbourne.
- 2.1.3 Delivery of improved bus priority at more locations.
- 2.1.4. Delivery of the promised Blue Orbital SmartBus route.

**TRAM**

- 2.1.5 Acceleration of the purchase of new trams.
- 2.1.6 The retention of the Bumblebee Trams through a lease extension or the outright purchase of the trams.
- 2.1.7 Delivery of improved tram priority at more locations.
- 2.1.8 An increase in tram service flexibility by building the Park Street, South Melbourne Tram Link
- 2.1.9 Improvements to the accessibility of the tram network by upgrading tram stops and deploying more modern low floor trams
- 2.1.10 Introduction of a St Kilda Rd Tram Shuttle service
- 2.1.11 Encouragement for commuters to shift to off peak or shoulder peak services.

**TRAIN**

- 2.1.12 Improvements to safety by staffing Balaclava and Ripponlea train stations from the first train to the last train.
- 2.1.13 Conversion of the 4.57 pm ghost train from Sandringham to a passenger service.
- 2.1.14 Delivery of the Victorian Transport Plan commitment to construct the Melbourne Metro Train Tunnel Stage 1 by securing Commonwealth funding.
- 2.1.15 Delivery of additional peak train services on the Sandringham line – one extra train in the morning and afternoon peaks.
- 2.1.16 Improvements to the accessibility of the train network by making Balaclava Station Disability Discrimination Act compliant.

**3. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

- 3.1 Late in 2008 a City of Port Phillip public transport needs assessment (research) was conducted to understand how public transport was used, the gaps, and what the community's public transport needs / wants / sought after improvements were.
- 3.2 A telephone survey of 400 respondents from across the municipality, and two focus groups (Elwood and Port Melbourne) were undertaken. The telephone surveys included representative samples from St Kilda, Elwood, Middle Park, Elwood and the St Kilda Road precinct.
- 3.3 A summary of the research is included in Attachment 1.
- 3.4 The sixteen (16) recommendations contained within the City of Port Phillip Public Transport Advocacy Statement have been heavily informed by the research.
- 3.5 The City of Port Phillip Public Transport Advocacy Statement is designed to complement the existing walking and cycling strategies to deliver a comprehensive approach to sustainable transport, and improving transport choice.

- 3.6 Whilst Local Government in Victoria is not a direct provider of public transport, we play a vital role in influencing the providers and the funders of the tram, bus and train services.
- 3.7 The City of Port Phillip Public Transport Advocacy Statement is entirely consistent with the State Government's recently released Victorian Transport Plan.

#### **4. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS**

- 4.1 The City of Port Phillip Public Transport Advocacy Statement has been heavily informed via the 400 respondent telephone survey and two focus groups convened. Through this process significant data and information was gathered on travel patterns, community perceptions and expectations of public transport needs / wants.
- 4.2 A number of the recommendations have or are already being considered / developed with public transport service providers and / or State Government representatives.

#### **5. DISCUSSION**

##### **5.1 ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN**

- 5.1.1 The Report pertains to each of the four (4) directions in the 2009-2013 Council Plan, but specifically aligns with Direction 2 – Taking Action on Climate Change.
- 5.1.2 The Council Plan includes strong references to improving public transport for the municipality – including '2.2.1 Promote transport modes that minimise energy use' and action 'Increase the availability of public transport options within and across the city'
- 5.1.3 The Council Plan 2009 – 2013 also includes a specific action to 'Develop a public transport advocacy statement'.
- 5.1.4 The development of the Statement is also entirely consistent with the City of Port Phillip Public Transport Strategy 2002.

##### **5.2 FINANCE / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.2.1 The responsibility of providing and managing public transport within Victoria is a State Government responsibility. City of Port Phillip's role is to advocate and influence the State to provide improved service provision where required. This is the intent of the City of Port Phillip Public Transport Advocacy Statement.
- 5.2.2 Thus, the resourcing of the City of Port Phillip Public Transport Advocacy Statement will be undertaken within existing operational budgets, in the form of 'sunk' employee costs only.

**6. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

**6.2 TIMELINE**

- 6.2.1 Communication of the report as outlined in 6.2.1 to occur in August 2009.
- 6.2.2 Strategies for each individual recommendation to be developed during August and September 2009.
- 6.2.3 The Bus initiatives to be progressed during the imminent 2009/10 Port Phillip Bus Review process.
- 6.2.4 Report to be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that Council remains responsive to shifts in transport demand.

**6.3 COMMUNICATION**

- 6.3.1 It is proposed to produce a short, clear and succinct document from the City of Port Phillip Public Transport Advocacy Statement, contained in attachment 2, for the purposes of discussions with State Government representatives, and ease of communication with the general City of Port Phillip community.
- 6.3.2 The finalised report will be provided to local Parliamentary representatives, relevant State and Federal Ministers, relevant State and Federal Government Departments, bus operators and current and incoming train and tram operators.

Key Messages

- 6.3.3 The City of Port Phillip is committed to increasing transport choice.
- 6.3.4 The City of Port Phillip has engaged the community to learn more about gaps / needs and wants in local public transport services.
- 6.3.5 A City of Port Phillip Public Transport Advocacy Statement has been developed based on community research.
- 6.3.6 We want to work constructively with public transport providers and the State Government to improve public transport within and through the City of Port Phillip.

**7. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST**

- 7.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.