



RMIT Swanston Academic Building
Building 80, Level 4, Room 11
Melbourne VIC 3000
Thursday 4 August 2016

Transport for Melbourne: What's the plan?

Public Forum
Transport for Melbourne &
RMIT Centre for Urban Research

Introduction

The Victorian State Government has committed to a number of major infrastructure projects, but what's the plan for Melbourne transport and how do these projects fit in?

Traditionally governments have relied on their departments for policy and professional advice, yet now we see them increasingly turn to organisations outside government for advice and the delivery of services. The community is aware that issues can arise whereby vested interests and "commercial in confidence" clauses can block transparency. Therefore, a community voice that reflects the interests and needs of the broader community is vital.

So who will be advocating in the interest of Melbournians? If it is community advocacy groups, there will need to be strong agreement on what is required for a transport plan and the kind of outcomes, strategies and priorities for implementation we should be aiming for. We invite you to have your voice heard and contribute to this discussion to improve community consensus on our city's transport.

Program Outline

Time	Program
THURSDAY 4 AUGUST 2016	
5.00pm	Chair Welcome and Introduction
	President's address
	Graham Currie: Current situation, benchmarking for Melbourne public transport, implications of business as usual from a transport perspective and the need to change.
	Jago Dodson: Public transport services, institutions, advocacy and change.
	Michael Buxton: Implications from a broader perspective.
	Victoria McKenzie-McHarg: The community voice.
	Comments from Friends of Transport for Melbourne
	John Hearsch (Rail Futures)
	Mike Reece (VTAG)
	Tony Morton (PTUA)
	Oz Kayak (TCPA)
	Question time
6.30pm	Summary and closing address

Speakers



Professor Graham Currie – Chair of Public Transport and Director of Research (Transport Engineering), Monash University

Graham holds Australia's first professorship in public transport based at the Institute of Transport Studies, researching and providing training in public transport planning. He has 30 years' experience as a transit planner and is a member of the US Transportation Research Board committees on Bus Transit, Light Rail Transit and Transit Development and Planning.



Professor Jago Dodson – Professor of Urban Policy and Director of the RMIT Centre for Urban Research

Jago has an extensive record of research into transport, urban planning and urban governance problems, contributing frequently to scholarly and public debates on Australian cities. He also advises national and international agencies on urban policy questions.



Professor Michael Buxton – Professor of Environment and Planning, RMIT School of Global, Urban and Social Studies

Michael formerly headed the intergovernmental process for developing Australia's National Greenhouse Strategy, and the group responsible for the development and implementation of environmental policy in Victoria. He was an elected Victorian local government councilor and Mayor for ten years and was a member of the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority for six years. He is frequently asked to comment and advise on urban issues nationally by Australian media.



Victoria McKenzie-McHarg – Climate Campaign Manager, Australian Conservation Foundation

Victoria leads community driven campaigns for government action on climate change and sustainable transport, which in 2012 earned her a place in The Age Melbourne Magazine's top 100 most influential, inspirational, and creative Victorians for her work leading a legal and community campaign against a proposed new coal-fired power station – a campaign that was ultimately won.



Nicholas Low – Former Professor in Urban and Environmental Planning, University of Melbourne

Nicholas is a former city planner and the founder of Australasian Centre for Governance and Management of Urban Transport (GAMUT) at University of Melbourne. He is also the author of *Transforming Urban Transport The Ethics, Politics and Practices of Sustainable Mobility*. He is known for his contributions to the study of the politics of planning and transport, and for his international research on urban sustainability published in numerous international journal articles.

Acknowledgements

Transport for Melbourne would like to thank RMIT Professor David Haywood, and Professor Jago Dodson for their encouragement and support for this forum and providing this venue, and assistance provided by Chanel Bearder for preparing the flyer and other arrangements that made this forum possible.

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About

Transport for Melbourne

Transport for Melbourne is a small think tank and advocacy group of transport professionals whose mission is to promote a better understanding of transport issues that Melbourne faces now and how these can be better addressed by applying lessons learnt from cities that have been confronted with similar problems and become models of international best practice. Our concern is that the transport crisis we face today in Melbourne is to a large extent a result of our government's failure to appreciate and apply these lessons.

The transport problem is always seen in terms of infrastructure: 'we don't have enough, therefore we must pour money into building more'. But the immediate problem is that we don't use what we have effectively and efficiently. There are many cities in the world with superior transport systems that have far less infrastructure than Melbourne.

Melbourne needs a new vision for transport and a new plan to implement the vision. The plan must start not with new infrastructure but with institutional change and better management of our public transport system and new investment priorities. We want transport on rails and transport on roads to be planned as a single integrated network. Thinking about transport must be joined up with thinking about the future shape of our city. Walking and cycling must be treated as transport modes needing safe infrastructure. We need a plan that reflects the best international practice. We also need a new freight plan.

There are no simple single fixes to these problems. They require actions in many areas and will require new infrastructure investment but it has to be invested where it is needed. It is our view that considerable improvements could be made to Melbourne's transport problems relatively quickly: much of it within a four-year parliamentary term if the government had the mindset and commitment to make it happen and this could be implemented at a cost that would be considerably less than the major road tunnel projects that the government is committed to today.

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About the RMIT Centre for Research

At a time of rapid population growth, a changing climate, and volatile global economic conditions, the need to improve how our cities work has never been greater. Cities serve as the foundations of our economic, social and environmental wellbeing, and this demands better understanding and insight into policy, planning and decision-making in areas such as urban forms and environments, resource and energy use, infrastructure and mobility, resilience and adaptation, and our working and social lives.

The Centre for Urban Research formed in 2012 is a dynamic hub for interdisciplinary urban research and provides a leadership role for RMIT University in the study of critical urban issues, and is also successful in building connections with industry, not-for-profits and government. Through its research, the CUR is directly responding to the globally important need to shape cities that are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

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