

Transport for Melbourne is small 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 become models of international best practice – cities that have been confronted with similar problems. 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. 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.

Today governments do not lead – they follow public opinion. This is why we need broad based community support including the support of well respected people of standing to champion this campaign and change public opinion to force change.

GAMUT is a collaborative research centre directed by Dr Leigh Glover, dedicated to promoting and supporting sustainable urban transport in Australia and the Asia Pacific region. Based at the University of Melbourne, GAMUT works with a network of researchers to focus attention on the need for innovative institutional design for integrated transport systems. GAMUT is one of a global network of Centres of Excellence in Future Urban Transport created by the Volvo Research and Educational Foundations, an independent research and educational institution.

Melbourne's Transport Crisis

**A Public Forum convened by
Transport for Melbourne
in collaboration with
GAMUT**

**To be held at the *Footscray Town Hall* on
Thursday 7th November at 6pm**

Enquiries

Seating capacity at the Footscray Town Hall is limited. Attendance is free, but please book a place in advance. Bookings can be made by email to rogtayl@hotmail.com
Note for email bookings please enter in the subject field "forum booking" and your name.
Other enquiries can be made to the forum convener, Roger Taylor on 9813 1529.

Melbourne has a transport crisis – *not just in congested roads and unreliable public transport but in lack of vision and creative thinking to solve these problems. We are failing to learn the lessons from cities that are already finding better solutions to transport problems.*

If the State government proceeds with the East- West tunnel and the additional road projects required to make the tunnel “work”, billions of dollars will be diverted from transport projects we really do need and from public health, education and community services which are already inadequately funded. Melbourne will rapidly decline as a livable city.

This forum will examine these issues and implications for the western suburbs of Melbourne. It will present an alternative vision and describe the actions required to achieve it. The main focus will be on systemic changes (institutional, operational, planning and coordination etc) supported by strategic investment in smaller infrastructure projects which can result in major improvements within a relatively short time ie a four year parliamentary term.

Program

5.30 - 6.00pm Registration

- Transport the maker and breaker of cities, integration with city planning and development.
Dr Carolyn Whitzman
- Melbourne' public transport system, its performance and how it rates against world best practice.
Prof Graham Currie
- Freight issues for Melbourne and some strategies for the future.
Dr Bill Russell
- What is the problem, some solutions and barriers to implementation.
Prof Nicholas Low
- Case studies of models of international best practice, lessons that can be applied to Melbourne, and an outline of a new vision and strategy for Melbourne.
Dr John Stone
- Mega-projects: the track record, implications of our own mega project the east- west tunnel, including sovereign risk and other issues.
Dr Sophie Sturup
- Question time and light refreshments.

8.30pm

Close

Forum Speakers

Dr Carolyn Whitzman is Associate Professor in Urban Planning at the University of Melbourne. She is the lead editor of Building Inclusive Cities: Women's Safety and the Right to the City (Earthscan, 2012), author of Suburb, Slum, Urban Village: Transformations in a Toronto Neighbourhood 1875-2002 (University of British Columbia Press, 2009) and the co-author of Safe Cities: guidelines for planning, design, and management (Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1995).

Prof Graham Currie holds Australia's first professorship in public transport based at the Institute of Transport Studies, Monash University where he researches and provides 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.

Dr Bill Russell is the author of *The Next Wave of Port Reforms in Victoria*.

Prof Nicholas Low is the author or editor of ten books, two of which have won national and international prizes. 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. He convened the 1997 conference at the University of Melbourne on Environmental Justice. His book (with Brendan Gleeson) *Justice, Society and Nature* won the Harold and Margaret Sprout Prize of the International Studies Association 1998 for the best book published on ecological politics in

that year. He won a major grant from the Volvo Foundations to create the Australasian Centre for Governance and Management of Urban Transport (GAMUT) which he directed from 2006 to 2011.

Dr John Stone is a Lecturer in Transport Planning at the University of Melbourne. His research seeks to understand the reasons for differences in urban public transport performance in Europe, North America and Australia. His latest projects aim to encourage the transfer of proven planning techniques from Europe to Australia. This work began in 2012 with a five-month research fellowship at the Technical University in Munich.

Dr Sophie Sturup holds a research position in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning at the University of Melbourne and is a Partner in the University's Australasian Centre for the Governance and Management of Urban Transport (GAMUT). Her current research interests and activities include governmentality and mega urban transport projects, environmental performance in the transport sector, planning responses to natural disasters and performance evaluation of public sector projects.

Forum convener, Roger Taylor, spent more than thirty years in the transport industry including twenty years practical experience working for the former Victorian Railways, VLine and the Public Transport Corporation. He has run numerous forums on transport issues. The emphasis for many of these forums has been to develop a better understanding of Melbourne's transport issues and opportunities for improvement, particularly in public transport by applying lessons learnt from international best practice.