

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a city street intersection at night. The scene is illuminated by streetlights and the lights from tall buildings. Long, colorful light trails from cars and buses are visible on the road, indicating motion. The buildings have many lit windows, and some have distinctive yellow and blue patterns. The overall atmosphere is that of a busy urban environment.

2020 VICTORIAN BUDGET TRANSPORT REVIEW

Timna Jacks

– The Age

wrote:

Transport Winners:

Rail commuters. “A total of \$2.2 billion on the Suburban Rail Loop, \$2 billion on Geelong fast rail, and \$660 million for the next stages of upgrades on the Shepparton and Warrnambool line.

“The government will also spend \$276.5 million on the Dandenong corridor to allow for faster high-capacity metro trains to run and \$5.5 million on track works around Caulfield station to enable the separation of the Frankston and Dandenong lines.

“\$500 million for commuter car parks and Dandenong corridor works.”

Timna Jacks

– The Age

wrote:

Transport Winners:

Tram users. “A total of \$1.48 billion will be spent on building 100 new modern accessible trams to retire the ageing A and Z-class trams.

“...the largest tram order in decades will include an order for new E-Class trams and possibly another variety, will also go towards a new maintenance facility in Melbourne’s north-west ...”

Timna Jacks

– The Age

wrote:

Transport Winners:

Road users: “A total of \$1.6 billion in road network and infrastructure initiatives, including

- **“\$2.5 million in the "Summer Streets" program to provide traffic management during COVID-safe outdoor events,**
- **“\$117 million package of road and intersection upgrades across Melbourne and**
- **“\$411 million to resurface, rebuild and maintain 1700 kilometres of roads.”**

Timna Jacks

– The Age

wrote:

Transport Losers

Cyclists. “Less than half of a target of 12 cycling upgrades were delivered last financial year, with just five projects completed.

“The government blamed delays associated with stakeholder engagement and problems finalising scope”.

Nb: This is where local government/MTF want to assist

“... \$63.4 million will be spent on pedestrian and cycling infrastructure around schools.”

Timna Jacks

– The Age

wrote:

Transport Losers

Bus users.

“...\$20 million is being spent on a trial of zero-emission buses.

“Ongoing improvements to bus services at just \$4.2 million...”

**Jackie
Fristacky
wrote:**

“Most is for E – Zero Emissions bus trial (\$20M), also great Mornington Peninsula gets bus upgrades and new bus service Mernda-Craigieburn positive, but upgrades for most bus metropolitan services forgotten – no boost to getting people get to jobs in the big build for jobs when 70% of Melbourne is out of effective reach of tram or train?

“And 65% of jobs are in suburbs outside CBD!”

The New Big Ones:

Airport Rail \$5b (matched by Fed Gov)

Geelong Fast Rail \$2b

Suburban Rail Loop \$2.2b

The Big Ones:

The \$80 billion program now consists of 165 projects, including the projects below.

Geelong Fast Rail

An investment of \$2 billion to reduce travel times between Geelong and Melbourne and carry more passengers on our state's busiest regional rail line – matching the Commonwealth's commitment to the project.

Geelong Fast Rail will mean fewer stops, faster trips and less crowded trains – and is the first step to delivering fast rail to regional Victoria.

Stage one of the Suburban Rail Loop

\$2.2 billion will be invested to get works underway, creating up to 800 direct jobs – including project development, geotechnical and utility work.

Suburban Rail Loop will link every major railway line from the Frankston Line to the Werribee Line via the airport – with three new super hubs at Clayton, Broadmeadows and Sunshine connecting regional passengers to the network.

Critical road projects

Relieving congestion and easing pressure on our road network, works will continue to ramp up on the Barwon Heads Road Upgrade, Narre Warren North Road Upgrade and South Road Upgrade as well as continuing planning work on a Bulla Bypass.

E-Vehicles

**A toe in the door towards introducing
Road User Charge**

**Discourages uptake of E-Vehicles (despite
outspending anticipated revenue on new
E-infrastructure)**

My observations

Big budget projects are easier for the Gov to deliver than small projects, due to less complex engagement/consultation, and ability to invoke major projects legislation.

A government that wants to demonstrate it is getting things done, and creating jobs will avoid complex small projects.

How can we in local government change this impression?

Community Engagement

This is where you and your officers come to the fore.

When MTF meets state politicians and senior officers we say that we know how to engage with our community, we can help the state improve their projects – this is what we do well.

Contact us (the Exec or EO) if you have questions, and we can share our experiences.

My thoughts

Evidence trumps opinions –we can show that smaller projects generate political capital for state members – what data can you share from your capital works programs?

Councillor Opportunities – your Council Plan

You will soon be asked by your CEO - if you have not already been asked - *What do you want your legacy to be?*

Whatever it is, get it explicitly written into the COUNCIL PLAN! This is your most powerful tool to deliver that legacy.

Your officers will refer to the Council Plan for the next four years, to deliver what you have asked.

Councillor Opportunities – your Council Plan

Be as specific as you can –

- do you want bike lanes?**
- bus/train timetable improvements?**
- walkable neighbourhoods?.**
- How many do you want?**

**If you want something finished, say
“COMPLETE xxx”.**

**You will not get everything! But if the
plan is written with loose language, it is
easier to water down the delivery.**