



Representing one million residents as the Eastern Transport Coalition

Factsheet #7: Better Bus Services

Whilst the expansion of rail and tram services is necessary to provide a fast and efficient public transport network, this must be complemented with bus service improvements to serve as feeder services to public transport nodes and activity centres.

| | Trains | Trams | SmartBus | Buses |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|------------|---------|
| Average weekday peak headways | 15 mins | 7 mins | 15 mins | 40 mins |
| Average interpeak headways | 20 mins | 12 mins | 15-30 mins | 60 mins |
| Average start time | 5:00 am | 5:00 am | 6:00 am | 6:00 am |
| Average finish time | Midnight | Midnight | Midnight | 9:00 pm |

Comparison between bus, tram and train service standards

While the ETC recognises the improvements that will be delivered through Meeting Our Transport Challenges, there is a need to provide further increases in frequency and operating span to ensure that bus travel is convenient and competitive with private vehicles.

In this regard, there is a need to couple bus service improvements with bus priority, such as transit lanes and traffic light priority, to provide a journey time competitive with car travel and a higher utilisation of the bus fleet overall, which result from reduced journey times.

A plan for the outer east:

The Outer East Public Transport Plan, which was created in collaboration between the Department of Infrastructure and the eastern councils, broadly established the priorities for the eastern region including bus routes that require inclusion on the Principal Bus Network and bus priority treatments.

Subsequently, the member councils within the Eastern Transport Coalition completed their own Integrated Transport Strategies, which reinforced the need for an expansive principal bus network that served key main roads within the respective municipalities.

Whilst Meeting Our Transport Challenges provides four orbital bus routes to be completed over 10 years, it does not specify any funding arrangements for the further expansion of the Principal Bus Network.

Mission Statement: The Eastern Transport Coalition will advocate for sustainable and integrated transport services in the Eastern region of Melbourne which focus on the travel needs of the community and reduce the level of car dependency

Eastern Transport Coalition

Greater Dandenong, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges Councils

The local bus network:

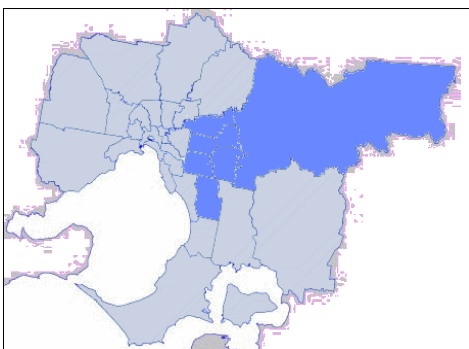
Whilst the SmartBus network will provide an efficient mass transit system for public transport users, this will need to be underpinned by a local bus network that serves residential areas and community facilities that are located beyond 400m of main roads.

The upcoming metropolitan bus service reviews have the potential to provide further bus improvements and in this regard must adequately distinguish between SmartBus and local bus routes.

A call for action:

| <u>Short-term:</u> | <u>Medium-term:</u> |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introduce bus only lanes and other priority measures along SmartBus orbital routes.● Undertake bus service reviews for the eastern region.● Upgrade all bus services to minimum service standards.● Improve coordination between bus/bus transfers and bus/train transfers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Accelerate the introduction of the proposed SmartBus network.● Extend the SmartBus network to include the bus routes identified by the respective councils.● Upgrade bus fleets to provide greener fuels and DDA compliance.● Further improvements to minimum service standards to ensure greater coordination. |

About the Eastern Transport Coalition:



The Eastern Transport Coalition (ETC) consists of Melbourne's seven eastern Metropolitan Councils and represents approximately one million residents.

The ETC advocates for sustainable and integrated transport services to reduce the level of car dependency to secure the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Melbourne's outer east.

Contact details:

The Eastern Transport Coalition aims to work in partnership with Federal and State Government's to ensure the future sustainability of Eastern Melbourne.

For further details please visit www.etc.org.au or contact 9298 8000.

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