

26th June 2017

Cr Jim Memeti
Mayor
City of Greater Dandenong,
P O Box 200
Dandenong VIC 3175

Via email: c/- lucas.sikiotis@cgd.vic.gov.au

Dear Cr Memeti

Re: CGD draft Integrated Transport Plan 2017-22

The Eastern Transport Coalition (ETC) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the City of Greater Dandenong's draft Integrated Transport Plan 2017-22.

The ETC, of which the City of Greater Dandenong is a member and ably represented by Cr Roz Blades, has long campaigned for sustainable transport solutions to meet the needs of the thriving communities in Melbourne's greater eastern region.

As you would be aware, the ETC recently launched its *Commuters Count* campaign, aiming to increase funding for, and accelerate the delivery of significant public transport projects in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. We are asking for the basics: transport outcomes that improve the connectivity, liveability, productivity and efficiency as well as sustainability of our region.

Each of our seven member Councils put forward priority transport projects for inclusion in our policy platform. The City of Greater Dandenong nominated specific projects including:

- Westall Road extension
- Glasscocks Road land acquisition and construction
- Dandenong Sth east west access (central precinct)
- Regional south eastern corridor dedicated rail track

The City of Greater Dandenong also joined with other ETC member councils in calling for a range of improvements in public transport system design and service levels, and increased focus on enabling forms of active transport – walking and cycling.

The Integrated Transport Plan's Goals

The City of Greater Dandenong's draft Integrated Transport Plan (ITP) sets out four goals to guide decision-making around identifying transport solutions to meet the needs of today and tomorrow.

These goals closely align with the key themes the ETC has recognised as encapsulating the essential role transport plays in not only moving people and goods, but in shaping and building the sorts of neighbourhoods and communities we value in Melbourne's eastern region.

The ETC's theme of 'liveability' is captured in the ITP's *Goal 1 – Local streets and paths should provide residents with an opportunity to undertake physical and social activity.* There are a number of initiatives the ETC is campaigning for that can go a long way toward revitalising the community's willingness to walk or ride instead of driving.

Cycling and pedestrian paths that are properly paved, off-road and safe from traffic, well-lit in early morning and evenings, and have signalised crossing points are crucial.

Way-finding signage and education campaigns will also encourage our communities to take up active transport options.

ITP's *Goal 2 – Access to Employment, Education, Healthcare and Activity Centres should be easy for all*, is shared by the ETC through our focus on 'connectivity'.

Access to necessary services as an objective is enshrined in the Victorian Government's Plan Melbourne as the '20 minute neighbourhood' concept. As the City of Greater Dandenong and the ETC have both recognised, there is substantial thought and work required to provide the transport connections between home and shops, home and schools, home and services.

This may require new bus routes and better frequency of services, cycling and pedestrian paths, safe crossing points of main roads – and all are more important for those who may have limited access to cars.

The third Goal set out in the ITP – *An integrated transport network should underpin Greater Dandenong's strength as a national centre of economic significance and regional employment*, is well understood by the ETC.

Melbourne needs a transport system that provides people with viable options. Congestion is one of the biggest issues in Melbourne affecting economic efficiency, employment viability and quality of life. Funding sustainable alternatives and improving rail and road use will maximise opportunities for individuals, businesses and government to increase income and asset value.

Implementing solutions that increase capacity and improve operational productivity on the road and rail networks will enable access to job centres and the efficient movement of freight to market.


The ETC's Commuters Count campaign recognises the significance of a well planned transport system to sustaining the places and communities of tomorrow. The ITP's Goal 4 – *The role access plays in quality of life should be considered in land use planning decisions*, ably sets out the need to ensure that the location of new jobs and new housing, and the services and facilities needed to support them are either served by the current transport network or the timely provision of transport infrastructure and services as development occurs.

The Commuters Count policy agenda

The 50 initiatives outlined in the ETC's *Commuters Count* campaign represent the current priority transport projects of each of our seven council members. They are significant items, and have been identified over a long period of time, in consultation with our communities, as requiring attention and investment from state and federal governments.

As circumstances change, and innovative ideas are generated, our priority projects will be reviewed and revised. We welcome the City of Greater Dandenong bringing forward further items for inclusion in the *Commuters Count* campaign as they are identified and developed over time through your integrated transport planning process.

Yours sincerely,



Cr Peter Lockwood

Chair

Eastern Transport Coalition