

11. Public Transport in Port Phillip

Plan Melbourne promises to provide an integrated transport system connecting people to jobs and services and goods to market. It says that the key transport challenges are to ensure sufficient commuter capacity on public transport and road systems. This involves city shaping transport projects such as the East West freeway link, the Melbourne Rail Link, improvement of the tram network, support for walking and cycling and removal of level crossings.

What is your position on this, especially how it relates to Port Phillip?

Should all projects and initiatives requiring budget funding will be carefully assessed in relation to budget capacity and have rigorous business cases using cost-benefit analysis as part of their economic impact assessment? How does this apply to ' the East West link and the extension of Melbourne's rail network?

There has been no major rail extension in Melbourne since the 1930s. At that time Melbourne had a population of just 1 million. A city of 6.5 million residents needs a world-class public transport system. The government has set up Public Transport Victoria to administer trams, buses and trains. This gives us the capacity to get a modern public transport system in Melbourne. However there are competing proposals on how this should be done.

The Melbourne Metro project involved a 9 km tunnel between South Yarra and Kensington.

However in he Liberal government announced an alternative: the Melbourne Rail Link would run from South Yarra to Southern Cross station with a new underground station at Montague St.

What are the advantages and disadvantage of each?

Plan Melbourne involves improvement of the tram network. Construction of approximately 300 metres of missing tram track, on Park Street in South Melbourne, between Heather Street to Kings Way, will fill a gap in the current tram network. This would increase the flexibility of Melbourne's tram network and alleviate congestion along the St Kilda Road-Swanston Street corridor which is already highly congested.

Do you support the Park St linkage?

What other steps should be taken to create a world class public transport system in Melbourne generally, and in Port Phillip in particular?