

4.3 EASTERN TRANSPORT COALITION UPDATE

Responsible Director: Ossie Martinz

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the work being undertaken by the Eastern Transport Coalition in its advocacy campaign in the lead-up to the 2018 State Election.

INTRODUCTION

The Eastern Transport Coalition (ETC) consists of Melbourne's seven eastern metropolitan Councils representing a combined total of over one million people.

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

BACKGROUND

The ETC has put together a substantial suite of projects and priorities to promote connectivity, liveability, sustainability, productivity and efficiency throughout the eastern region. This document outlines the ETC's priorities for advocacy to the State and Federal Governments.

The *ETC 2017-18 Advocacy Campaign* was put together to have a significant influence on the Government's decision making for the next 1 plus 4 (new term) years of transport infrastructure planning and delivery and with the approaching State Government election towards the end of 2018 the campaign is well underway. In the coming months, the ETC will approach, brief and discuss with the opposition the prospect of continuing this working group should they win the November State Election.

DISCUSSION

The current focus of the ETC campaign is to engage with the public on three areas; Rail, Buses and Active Transport.

The ETC has established a working group via The Minister for Public Transport's office, involving Shaun Leane MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Parliamentary Secretary to the Special Minister of State, Andrew Korr, Director, Public Transport Development & Coordination, Transport for Victoria (TfV) and Phil Sturrock – Manager, On Road Infrastructure, TfV.

At the ETC Meeting held at Monash on 19 April 2018, the working group held discussions on buses in the Eastern region, focusing on four key areas: frequency, bus stops, routes and innovation.

The following ETC meeting, held on 17 May 2018, conducted a similar workshop on rail upgrades, again with Shaun Leane MP, and Dr Bill Russell, Secretary Executive Member, Rail

Futures Institute (RFI), Peter Don, Co-ordinator, Metropolitan Rail Network, RFI, Peter Tesdorph, Executive Member, RFI, and Cr Jacki Fristacky, Executive Member, RFI.

At this meeting, Monash submitted requests for upgrades to the Syndal, Jordanville and Glen Waverley Railway Stations.

The ETC plans to hold another workshop on June 21st to discuss Active Transport projects

In April 2018, the ETC launched its Fix the Belgrave and Lilydale Lines campaign by handing out flyers to commuters calling for action, hoping to capitalise on November's State election. An upgrade of the run down Croydon Station and the removal of its level crossing, as well as duplication of the Lilydale line from Mooroolbark is also sought.

The campaign has begun to gain traction with the Leader Newspapers in Yarra Ranges, Maroondah joining forces with the ETC and simultaneously running front page articles on Tuesday 8 May 2018.

The Whitehorse Leader also joined the campaign and ran a Page 3 article on the same day.

The ETC campaign will shortly move to calls for action on buses and active transport, which will have a greater focus on projects required to enhance the transport network in the City of Monash.

CONCLUSION

Committee members remain cautiously optimistic of achieving some long awaited outcomes on a number of projects across various transport modes through the established working group and will report back to Council once further progress is made.