

6.4 MONASH RAIL

Submitting Councillor: Cr Davies

That Council:

- *Notes the \$475m funding in the latest Federal budget allocated towards a “Monash Rail” project connecting Huntingdale station past Monash University to Rowville and consideration of other options.*
- *Notes the \$3m funding in the latest State budget allocated towards a feasibility study for a tram option from Caulfield to Rowville, passing Monash University.*
- *While fully supportive at the prospect of any increase in public transport capacity and funding, notes its preference for the ‘Monash Rail’ option.*
- *Writes to Hon. Paul Fletcher, Minister for Urban Infrastructure and Cities, confirming Monash Council’s longstanding support for the ‘Monash Rail’ project and requesting further details on the funding commitments related to all stages of the Project.*
- *Writes to Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport confirming Monash Council’s longstanding support for the ‘Monash Rail’ project and requesting that the Opposition outline their funding commitments for the ‘Monash Rail’ project.*
- *Writes to the Premier of Victoria and Member for Mulgrave, Hon Daniel Andrews MP and the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Matthew Guy MP, confirming Monash Council’s longstanding support for the ‘Monash Rail’ project and requesting they clarify their 2018 election funding commitments to the ‘Monash Rail’ project and/or the Caulfield to Rowville tram option.*

BACKGROUND

The recently released Federal Budget contained funding towards a project called ‘Monash Rail’. The funding contributes towards a first stage of the formerly named and much discussed ‘Rowville Rail’ project. The Federal Governments budget commitment of \$475m is expected to half-fund heavy rail from Huntingdale to Monash University, with the State Government to meet the remaining cost. This is noteworthy as it has been a significant transportation project on the wishlist for the City of Monash for many decades. Further details of the funding for this project are provided below from the office of Hon. Alan Tudge MP.

MONASH RAIL PLANNING AND PRECONSTRUCTION

Estimated Funding: \$475m

Project Description

The project will involve planning and preconstruction activities to construct a rail line in south-east Melbourne to service the Monash precinct. The project will complete a business case to

determine the optimal solution to address congestion along the corridor such as heavy or light rail. The project will also undertake detailed planning and early construction works. The aim of the project is to connect the Monash precinct to the Melbourne transport network and provide access to economic activity in central Melbourne. A second stage of the proposal could extend to Rowville.

Related / Complementary Projects

The Australian Government is contributing \$500 million to widen and upgrade the Monash Freeway. The 2018-19 Victorian Budget included a \$3 million commitment for planning and design for a tram route connecting Caulfield and Rowville.

Problem

The suburbs surrounding the Monash precinct have grown significantly in the last 40 years. The education precinct around Monash University's Clayton Campus is a key employment hub and will be a focus for substantial future growth, with continued growth elsewhere along the route such as in Stud Park.

The Victorian Government has identified the Monash Precinct as a National Employment Cluster, a concentrated corridor of knowledge-based businesses and industry that provides high levels of employment. Growth in the precinct is constrained owing to limited public transport options and an over reliance on road transport resulting in traffic congestion.

Benefits

A rail system that connects to the Monash Precinct and provides efficient and reliable travel will assist in alleviating traffic congestion. Improved transport linkages would help attract international investment to the area delivering substantial economic and social benefits to Victoria and Australia as well as significant productivity gains to the community and economy. Improved public transport has the potential to improve access to jobs, health services and affordable housing. The project will also result in:

- Improved public transport options
- More efficient and reliable travel
- Reduced traffic congestion

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is negligible cost to debating and deciding on this motion, and subsequently writing letters to those concerned if the motion is passed.