



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## VTA backs Infrastructure Victoria congestion-busting measures

The Victorian Transport Association has endorsed several recommendations in Infrastructure Victoria's latest draft [30-year infrastructure plan](#) to ease congestion on the state's transportation networks to support the productivity and sustainability of hundreds of freight and logistics operators.

The plan, released today, outlines several recommendations to further incentivise public transport uptake by regional and city commuters, whilst continuing to expand Victoria's road and rail network to make the movement of people and freight even more seamless. Key recommendations include:

- Reconfiguration of the City Loop for more cross city train services;
- Lower charges for trams and buses to reduce pressure on roads and commuter rail;
- New tram routes to boost capacity in inner Melbourne and decrease road commuters;
- Connecting the Eastern Freeway with CityLink within 30 years; and
- New tram services to Fishermans Bend, Arden, Maribyrnong.

"This draft report recognises that notwithstanding short-term negative growth because of coronavirus, Melbourne is still on track to become Australia's most populous city within a matter of years," said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

"It rightly calls out the need for incentivising city commuters to use public transport because existing road and rail freight networks will be crippled by higher populations if steps aren't immediately taken to ease congestion. So, we welcome measures to reduce the cost of public transport and increase capacity to free up the road and rail networks for moving freight," Anderson said.

"In endorsing new tram and light rail networks into Fishermans Bend we must renew our caution that Lorimer Street be preserved for freight, as the only gazetted route for heavy vehicles to travel in and out of the Port of Melbourne. Planners must also strike a sensible balance for introducing new bicycle routes and ensure there is a clear delineation between heavy vehicles and bikes."

Anderson also welcomed the report's recommendation for an East-West Link style connection between CityLink and the Eastern Freeway.

"The VTA has always supported construction of the missing link between the Eastern Freeway and CityLink, which will become even more pressing after North-East Link is built. It is also notable that the report advocates earmarking land now for future freight terminals and corridors for a future outer ring road, which will be essential through our city and state's next phase of growth," he said.

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