

Transport Connections

The Victorian Government introduced an \$18.3 million **Transport Connections** program, which aims to improve transport options by making better use of existing services. The program helps communities across Victoria develop and oversee local transport solutions to meet local needs by using existing assets and services such as taxis, buses, trains and volunteer services. **Transport Connections** will shortly fund up to 30 projects across rural and regional Victoria and outer-metropolitan areas. A series of workshops will be held to assist councils to form partnerships at Bendigo (22/9), Mildura (26/9), Wangaratta (4/10), Shepparton (5/10), Alexandra (6/10), Ballarat (11/10), Ararat (12/10) and Horsham (13/10). All sessions will run from 10am – 2pm. Invitations have been sent to all eligible councils. Visit www.dvc.vic.gov.au/transport or email transport.connections@dvc.vic.gov.au. Contact Sharon Simon, 9208 3635.

MAV Advisory Committee

The MAV Transport and Infrastructure Advisory Group (TIAG) is currently reviewing its key priority issues for 2006-07. The group consists of representatives from 20 councils across Victoria and provides advice to the MAV Management Board on transport and infrastructure matters. Suggested priorities include federal funding for transport; transport and planning integration; freight and related infrastructure; and infrastructure issues related to growth. To discuss these priorities contact Eleanor Williams, 9667 5533, ewilliams@mav.asn.au.

Speed Limits Group

The next Speed Limits Advisory Group meeting will be held on Thursday 5 October. This group includes representatives from the MAV, RACV, Parents Victoria, Victorian Local Government Association and Local Government Professionals, Australian Road Research Board, Monash University Accident Research Centre, Department of Justice, TAC, Victoria Police and VicRoads. If there are any issues that you would like raised at this meeting, please contact Eleanor Williams, 9667 5533, ewilliams@mav.asn.au.

Council Contacts

A database of local government transport contacts is currently being developed by the MAV in consultation with the Department of Infrastructure Local Government Liaison and Regional Officers. The list will be used to distribute information of relevance to council officers involved in transport issues such as grant opportunities, State policy announcements, seminars and forums. To be added or removed from this mailing list contact Eleanor Williams, 9667 5533, ewilliams@mav.asn.au

Travelsmart III and LAADP

The Local Area Access Demonstration Program (LAADP) and Travelsmart III were announced as part of the *Meeting our Transport Challenges* statement and were confirmed in the 2006-07 State Budget. These programs will provide grants for local government to undertake projects that will contribute towards greater access to car alternatives such as walking, cycling and public transport. The guidelines and criteria for both programs have been sent to all councils and project proposals (part A) were due by 8 September. Contact Elisabeth Williams, 9655 6227, Elisabeth.williams@doi.vic.gov.au.

Draft Auslink Strategy

The draft AusLink Sydney-Melbourne Corridor Strategy is available on the Department of Transport and Regional Service's website: http://www.auslink.gov.au/whatis/network/corridors/draft_corridors.aspx. It is among the first of 24 corridor strategies being developed for the AusLink National Land Transport Network, which replaced the National Highway as the principal road and rail system linking capital cities and major population centres. The consultation period has now finished and the strategy will be finalised by mid-2007.

Public Transport Guideline

The Department of Infrastructure (DOI) is currently developing the Public Transport Guidelines for Land Use Development. These guidelines will assist councils, developers and consultants in planning for the integration of development and public transport and will also guide the Director of Public Transport in his new role as a referral authority for planning decisions. Many councils recently provided input to a draft of the guidelines. This feedback is currently being considered by DOI and councils will be notified once the final guidelines are released. Further information: www.doi.vic.gov.au.

Saferoads Conference

Victoria's biannual Saferoads Conference and the TAC Road Safety Awards were held on 7-8 September. The event was attended by over 30 councils, with a number of local government representatives presenting their road safety initiatives. A Motorcycle Safety initiative involving the City of Greater Geelong won the TAC Road Safety Awards. Mornington Peninsula, Moira, Shepparton, Mitchell, and Strathbogie Shires, and the cities of Port Phillip and Bayside were also recognised in the awards. Further information: www.saferoadsconference.com

Go to: www.mav.asn.au/transport