

## Rail Safety Briefing

Recent changes to the *Rail Safety Act 2006* have introduced formal requirements for road and rail infrastructure managers to jointly manage safety risks at all level crossings in Victoria. These new obligations require the development of Safety Interface Agreements for all level crossings and will require councils to work closely with the rail infrastructure managers of level crossings within their jurisdictions. Public Transport Safety Victoria is responsible for administering the Act and, together with the MAV, have organised an information seminar on recent changes to the Act and to outline the new obligations. The seminar will be held on Wednesday 16 July from 10.30am to 12.30pm (followed by a light lunch) at Department of Transport Level 5 Theatre, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne. All road infrastructure managers are encouraged to attend. To RSVP, contact Mark Earp on 9655 2027.

## Melbourne's Rail Capacity Presentation

Simon Lane, currently a consultant with the Department of Transport, is a former Chief Operating Officer of SBS Transit in Singapore and former Chief Executive Officer of CityRail in Sydney. Simon will outline the rail capacity issues of Melbourne's passenger rail network and explain how recommendations proposed as part of Sir Rod Eddington's study could alleviate current pressures. The presentation will be held on Monday 4 August at the Department of Transport Level 5 Theatre, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne. Please arrive by 9.45am for a 10am start. For security purposes, all attendees must RSVP to Skye Holcombe, 9667 5533, [sholcombe@mav.asn.au](mailto:sholcombe@mav.asn.au)

## Transport Conference

The MAV is hosting a national conference on strategic transport planning from 20 – 21 August at 1 Spring Street, Melbourne. Keynote addresses will include the Amsterdam Cyclists Union; Professor Richard Slaughter, Director of Foresight International; Thomas Malone, Professor of Management at the MIT Sloan School of Management, USA; Ineke Spape from the Netherlands National Board for Traffic and Transport Safety; and Professor Nicholas Low, Director, The Australasian Research Centre for the Governance and Management of Urban Transport. The conference will address issues and identify future directions on topics such as the impact of climate change, peak oil, population growth and congestion which are poised to significantly change the way society manages personal mobility. For a copy of the program, go to [www.mav.asn.au/transport08](http://www.mav.asn.au/transport08).

## Rail Freight 08 Community Summit

The Alliance for Rail Freight Development will host a Rail Freight Summit on Thursday 14 August from 11.30am - 5pm at the St Kilda Town Hall. The Hon. Tim Fischer AC, who led the Rail Freight Network Review in 2007, will speak at the forum. The Summit will bring together citizens and industry experts to discuss the complex issues of rail freight including issues of infrastructure, safety, environment and community. Following presentations, participants will be invited to contribute their views in facilitated workshops. Sponsors for the event include the Victorian Transport Association, Victorian Farmers' Federation, City of Port Phillip, the MAV and the University of Melbourne. To RSVP, contact Leonie Burrows at [lburrows@ncable.com.au](mailto:lburrows@ncable.com.au).

## L2P Discussion

Following numerous expressions of interest, the MAV will convene a meeting on Tuesday 29 July from 10.30am - 12pm to provide interested parties the opportunity to discuss the L2P Driver Program. The MAV encourage councils to use this opportunity to raise issues for discussion among participants. RSVP to Skye Holcombe, 9667 5533, [sholcombe@mav.asn.au](mailto:sholcombe@mav.asn.au).

## MAV's response to the East West Link Needs Assessment

Many thanks to councils who participated in the MAV's consultation process for the development of the Association's response to Sir Rod Eddington's East West Link Needs Assessment (EWLNA) report. Councils have directly informed the MAV's submission to the study through a consultation session hosted by the MAV in late May and through comments on the MAV's draft submission. Key messages of the submission include the need for a long-term integrated transport plan with consideration of greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, the need to consider the EWLNA recommendations in the context of current transport challenges Melbourne-wide and the need to undertake further analysis of the road tunnel option. Final submissions are due to the State Government by 15 July and the MAV will distribute its final response to all councils after this date.

For further information on all items, contact Skye Holcombe, 9667 5533, [sholcombe@mav.asn.au](mailto:sholcombe@mav.asn.au) or go to [www.mav.asn.au/transport](http://www.mav.asn.au/transport). To subscribe or unsubscribe, email [sholcombe@mav.asn.au](mailto:sholcombe@mav.asn.au)

## Keeping Melbourne Moving Update

### Business Briefing

The MAV attended a briefing by Minister Pallas on 17 June, regarding the Government's *Keeping Melbourne Moving* (KMM) policy. The invitation had been extended to trader associations operating within 10km of the CBD and local government peak bodies. The briefing was an opportunity for trader groups to find out more about the policy, openly discuss issues of concern and to ask questions of the Government. The briefing was attended by approximately 40 small business owners who expressed concern with the proposed changes and with the Government's management of the issue. The Government compiled the following list of outcomes and commitments from that meeting:

- VicRoads will work with each strip shopping centre and council on a local basis, to assess and, where possible, address local needs
- Localised level impact of the changes will be evaluated
- Imaginative solutions that meet the needs of congestion and trade must be carefully considered
- Minimising the effect on businesses is a priority
- A single representative of traders be incorporated on the Clearways Implementation Reference Group (CIRG)
- Engagement throughout the process on a clearways case-by-case basis
- Ongoing communication
- Minister for Small Business will be involved in discussions around the issue of clearways
- Continuing working together to address local issues

The Government has responded to item six by appointing Leonie Hemingway to represent traders on the CIRG.

### CIRG

Membership of the group includes the following:

- VicRoads (Chair)
- Municipal Association of Victoria
- Victorian Local Governance Association
- Victorian Employees Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Australia Retailers Association
- Transport Workers' Union of Australia
- Victorian Transport Association
- Royal Automobile Association of Victoria
- Yarra Trams
- Bus Association of Victoria
- Trader Associations (Leonie Hemingway)
- Department of Transport

The first meeting of the CIRG was held on 10 July. Discussion focussed on reviewing the Terms of Reference, which will be forwarded to councils once amendments suggested in the meeting have been made. The group also discussed improvements to public transport, the economic impacts on traders and the variability of such impacts throughout the 10km radius of Melbourne.

### MAV Convened Working Group

In the coming weeks the MAV will convene a working group comprised of councils affected by the first rollout of the changes to clearways times. The aim of this group will be to inform the MAV's representation of councils on the CIRG. Details to follow soon.

### Public Submissions

Councils are reminded that public submission may be provided to VicRoads until 14 July.

## Transport Plan for Victoria

The Government this week announced it is developing a comprehensive transport plan for Victoria to be released by the end of the year. The plan will respond to proposals for Melbourne's east-west corridor in Sir Rod Eddington's report, and other transport priorities across the state. The Government have said they will consider all public comments when making decisions for the future to deliver the best transport system for Victoria.

## Rail Safety Week

Rail Safety Awareness Week, commencing on 20 July, is a national initiative coordinated by the Australasian Railway Association. During this week, activities will be held around Australia to raise awareness of the dangers of unsafe behavior around railway lines and level crossings. The State Government's 'Don't Risk It!' campaign will run across television, radio and print media throughout the week to remind all motorists, pedestrians and cyclists of the need to take care around level crossings. Minister for Public Transport Lynne Kosky said Rail Safety Awareness Week "was a chance to remind all road users that Rail safety is a shared responsibility and road users must do their bit and take responsibility for their own safety." In the past three financial years the Government has upgraded 199 level crossings, as well as installing rumble strips and advanced warning signs to level crossings throughout Victoria.

## 2008 National Local Roads and Transport Congress

The National Local Roads and Transport Congress was held in Shepparton on 17 June. The following issues were outlined in the 'Shepparton Communiqué.'

*Local government calls on the Commonwealth, states and territories and the road transport industry to recognise that:*

- *Local government has responsibilities to its communities on how it spends its available resources and how it meets all of the other expectations of communities including the safety and amenity of its citizens;*
- *Many councils are financially constrained (confirmed by the Productivity Commission);*
- *Local government receives no direct funding for the use of local roads by heavy vehicles;*
- *The need for partnerships between all levels of government and industry to fund local transport solutions;*
- *Existing and growing skill shortages in local government;*
- *Rail has an appropriate and important role to play in transporting freight to reduce road traffic on local roads and improve road safety; and*
- *There is an essential role of strategic located multi-modal transport hubs.*

Other outcomes include discussion of changes to Roads to Recovery guidelines to make them more flexible and to include the depreciation of infrastructure. Minister Albanese will attend a meeting of State and Territory Transport meetings in July to discuss the progression of a single national system for heavy vehicle registration and licensing. Contact John Hennessy at [jhennessy@mav.asn.au](mailto:jhennessy@mav.asn.au).

## Public Transport Ombudsman Update

The Public Transport Ombudsman (PTO) is a cost-free and independent dispute resolution service, which investigates and resolves complaints that commuters and others affected by public transport are unable to resolve with Victorian public transport operators. The PTO can deal with most complaints about trains, trams and buses. Research has shown that many complainants find out about the PTO from information provided by local council staff. Simon Cohen is the Public Transport Ombudsman. His office has recently prepared the first edition of what will be a regular newsletter, *OverView* (attached to this email). Issue 1 includes information about the PTO Complaint Process, and a new role in dealing with complaints about Authorised Officers. *OverView* can be viewed at the PTO website [www.ptovic.com.au](http://www.ptovic.com.au). The PTO can be contacted on 1800 466 865 or by email at [enquiries@ptovic.com.au](mailto:enquiries@ptovic.com.au).

## \$5m Grants for Sustainable Transport

On 16 June the State Government announced \$5 million grant funding for councils as part of Round 3 of the *TravelSmart* and *Local Area Access Grants* programs. In a briefing to councils on 4 July, the Department of Transport highlighted features of good applications including solid linkages to the selection criteria; clearly describing the problem and proposal; providing sufficient and specific information; good reasoning and evidence; realistic budget and logical project timeline; supplementary information to show context and support; and experimental design. The Department is interested in funding projects that promote sustainable transport options, such as improving bike and pedestrian access to public transport, and which encourage modal shifts to reduce private car usage. Projects could include *TravelSmart* travel plans, infrastructure upgrades to improve safety and use of pedestrian crossings, and better integration of cycling and walking networks. Councils must lodge expressions of interest with the Department of Transport by 30 July. For further information, visit [www.transport.vic.gov.au](http://www.transport.vic.gov.au) or [www.travelsmart.vic.gov.au](http://www.travelsmart.vic.gov.au).

## New Graduated Licensing System

On 1 July the final phase of Victoria's new graduated licensing system (GLS) commenced. The GLS introduces important changes to the way young people in Victoria obtain their driver licences. The new system is being introduced to help younger drivers be safer drivers. Each year among 18 to 25 year olds, approximately 120 people are killed and 2,300 seriously injured (about a third of the Victorian road toll) in serious road crashes. It is expected that when the new graduated licensing system is fully operational, it will reduce the number of people injured in crashes by up to 800 each year, including fewer deaths. The GLS includes a new two-stage, four-year probationary licence which will replace the current single stage, three-year licence. Probationary drivers under 21 years when first licensed will spend a minimum of 12 months as a P1 (red plates) driver followed by three years as a P2 (green plates) probationary driver. Anyone who applies for a licence will be required to undertake a new and more comprehensive driving test. First year probationary drivers aged under 21 (P1 drivers) will be able to carry no more than one passenger aged between 16 and 21 while driving (siblings excluded). Further information is available at [www.gls.arrivealive.vic.gov.au](http://www.gls.arrivealive.vic.gov.au).