

ALGA Roads and Transport Strategy

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) recently launched a five-part Roads and Transport Strategy calling on the Australian Government to work with councils to deal with the transport challenges facing communities over the next 10 years. The strategy was developed at the Local Roads and Transport Congress in Launceston in 2005 and refined in Alice Springs in July 2006. It focuses on local road funding and management, urban transport, mobility and access for regional Australians, freight management, and long-term financial sustainability of local government. The strategy is available on www.alga.asn.au. Contact Andy Hrast, ALGA Director of Transport Policy, 02 6122 9432, andy.hrast@alga.asn.au

Bus Service Reviews

The increased funding for bus services in Meeting Our Transport Challenges, released by Government in May 2006, will result in a range of improvements to approximately 250 metropolitan bus routes over the next four years. A program to review both the network of routes and its current effectiveness has been developed to complement the roll out of improved services. As part of the strategy to improve bus services, 16 geographically based Bus Service Reviews will be conducted to identify options for enhancing metropolitan bus services with a particular focus on minimum service standards, modal connections and route structures. The review has commenced and will continue until 2010 and stakeholders, including local route bus operators and councils, will be invited to participate. A presentation on the Bus Service Reviews was made to councils on 13 December and is available at www.mav.asn.au/transport. Contact Chris Welsh, 9655 2095, christopher.welsh@doi.vic.gov.au

Rural Road Safety

In an endeavour to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the nature and causes of crashes in rural and remote areas, and to identify measures and future directions that will result in reduced road trauma, Austroads commissioned ARRB to undertake a major study into safety in rural and remote areas of Australia. The study involved the analysis of crash data in these environments, a major literature review and consultation. The review found that although more than half of all fatal crashes occur on roads within these environments, it has not been until the past decade that road safety strategies and programs have focused on these areas. The *Guide to Road Safety Part 5: Road Safety for Rural and Remote Areas (AGRS05/06)* is now available at <http://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/script/home.asp>.

Attitudes to Road Safety

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau has recently released a report on Community Attitudes to Road Safety - Community Attitudes Survey Wave 19, 2006. This report documents the findings from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau's latest survey of community attitudes to road safety. The 19th in a series of national surveys on community attitudes to road safety was conducted in February and March 2006. A total of 1,644 interviews were conducted with persons aged 15 years and over. The issues examined include: perceived causes of road crashes; exposure and attitudes to random breath testing; attitudes to speed; perceptions of police enforcement; mobile phone use while driving; reported usage of seat belts; involvement in road crashes; and experience of fatigue while driving. The report is available at http://www.atsb.gov.au/publications/2006/CR229_Community_Attit.asp.

Bike Victoria Initiatives

Cr Dick Gross, President of the MAV, has urged Victorian councils to support Bicycle Victoria's Ride2School program. The sector has welcomed the State Government's support of this program. The MAV agrees that getting young people on bikes is good for the whole community. It can contribute to a reduction in traffic congestion in local areas from school drop-offs and most importantly can lead to a healthier lifestyle for young people. Councils have strongly supported walking school bus programs and Ride2School is another step in the right direction. Further information on the program is available at <http://www.bv.com.au/join-us/125/>.

ARRB Conference

The 22nd ARRB conference was held from 29 October - 2 November 2006. The conference promoted and facilitated discussion about issues relevant to the transport industry, including new research being undertaken. Presentations from the conference are available at <http://www.arrb.com.au>.

Council Transport Contacts

A database of local government transport contacts has been developed by the MAV in consultation with the Department of Infrastructure's Local Government Liaison and Regional Officers. This list will be used to distribute information of relevance to council officers with an involvement in transport issues such as grant opportunities, State Government policy announcements, seminars and forums. The MAV transport bulletin has been distributed to the existing list of contacts. To be added or removed from this list, please contact Eleanor Williams, 9667 5533, ewilliams@mav.asn.au.

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