

TRANSPORT POLICY STATEMENT

**The MAV's position on
key transport policies.**

Locals know what locals need

Introduction – Locals know what locals need

Councils' sole purpose is to create more liveable, productive and safe communities, driven by community aspirations. They play a critical role in planning, delivering, and maintaining transport networks for communities. They are responsible for the local roads and paths that connect Victorians to public transport, education and activity centres.

Councils also collaborate with the State Government on the planning and development of public transport, growth areas, urban renewal and community facilities. They advocate on behalf of local communities for investment and improvements in priority transport services.

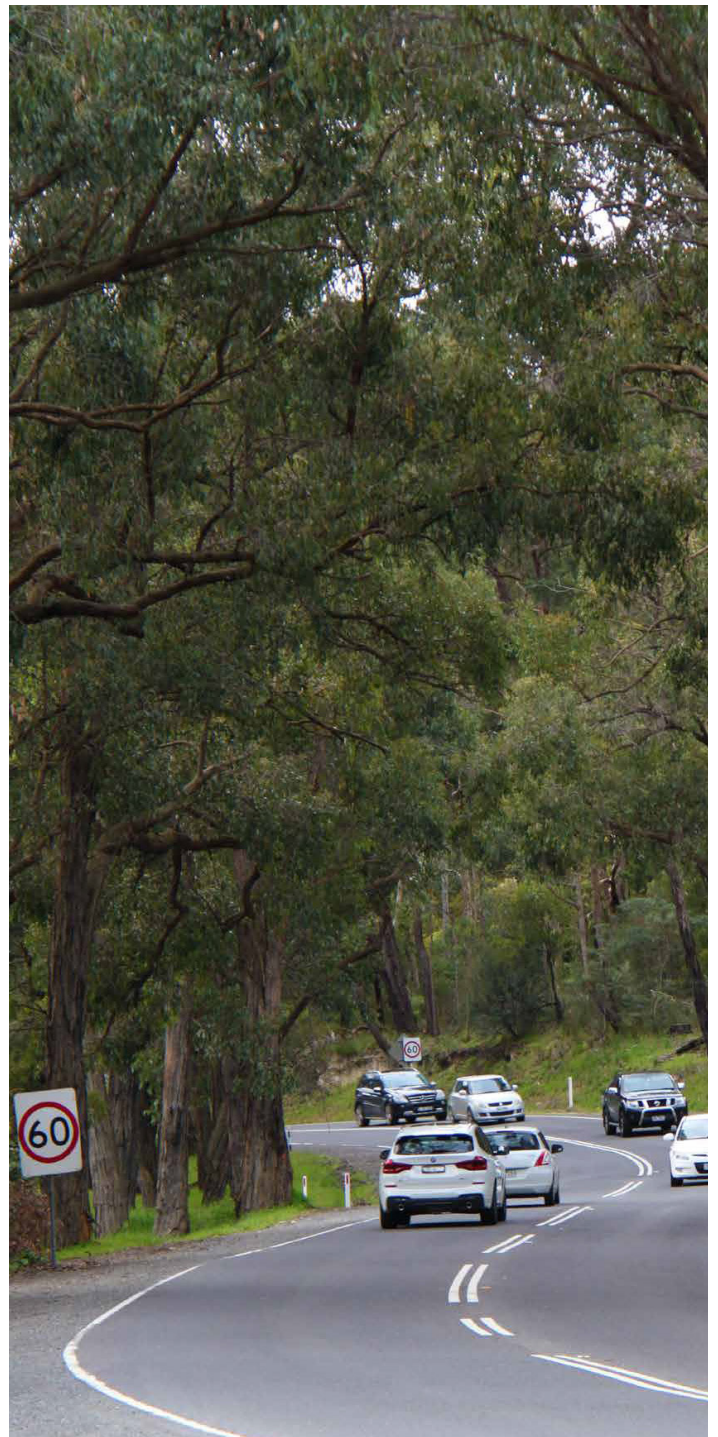
The best outcomes for communities come when State and Federal Governments listen closely to councils, and their local knowledge, to ensure greater alignment between funding streams, major projects and local priorities.

Better transport planning

- Victoria's growing population and economy requires a properly planned transport network.
- A clear, prioritised and sequenced transport plan – as required by law and recommended by Infrastructure Victoria – is critical to ensure smaller, effective local projects are properly addressed and that the Big Build does not absorb the majority of resources and funding.
- Better integration of land use and infrastructure planning is essential to manage congestion, increase accessibility to critical services, and improve community connection.

Increased local input

- Councils are committed to a collaborative approach to transport planning. To achieve the best possible outcomes, communities require early and meaningful engagement from State and Federal governments.
- Victorians are experiencing increased pressures on paths, roads, and transport services.
- Utilising councils' local knowledge of priorities and conditions leads to more effective project sequencing, targeted funding and realistic timelines for delivery.



Safe roads

- Safer roads are a priority for councils and communities across the state to ensure everyone can safely travel for work, education, shopping or leisure.
- Councils manage 87 per cent of Victoria's roads and need greater support from the State and Federal Government to deliver safe and pothole-free roads.
- Giving councils more autonomy – such as a flexible speed zoning policy – will allow tailored solutions to suit local conditions, leading to better protection of vulnerable road users, and reducing fatalities and injuries.



Infrastructure funding

- Roads and infrastructure funding should allow councils to direct the money where it is most needed.
- Particularly in many rural and regional areas, limited council revenue and large road network responsibilities mean road maintenance takes up a large proportion of council budgets. This cost, combined with the rate capped environment means they are heavily reliant on funding from State and Federal Government.
- Being heavily reliant on State and Federal grant programs, it's critical councils are not limited to new 'shovel ready' projects, which often force councils to expand their asset base rather than adequately maintain their existing assets.
- There needs to be a shift to more flexible and untied funding that allows councils to deliver on community priorities, including repairing and upgrading existing infrastructure.

Walkable communities

- No matter where you live, walking supports improved health, strengthens social connection, and reduces environmental impact, for everyone.
- Walkability is inhibited by lack of connection, inadequate paths, high vehicle speeds, and poor accessibility.
- Better place-based planning and investment, with pedestrians front of mind when upgrading streetscapes or building new infrastructure, will enable all community members to walk more easily and more often.





Bike riding

- Increasing bike trips creates multiple benefits including improved health outcomes, reduced carbon emissions, and reduced congestion.
- The lack of bicycle infrastructure, such as separated on-road bike lanes and off-road paths, is a significant barrier for potential cyclists, whether they're riding to school, work, or for fun.
- State and Federal funding is required to provide strategic cycling corridors and support the delivery of local bike paths, trails, and links.

Freight

- Councils are strong supporters of efficient freight services that deliver local and broader economic benefits, jobs, and sustainable business growth.
- In metropolitan areas, deliveries must get to businesses, shops, and homes safely and on time without excessive noise, pollution, and disruptions for people nearby. In rural and regional areas increased heavy vehicle use further pressures road networks under stress.
- State and Federal Governments must prioritise local road and bridge funding to ensure reliable and direct freight access to farms, factories and businesses.



Public transport

- A fast, efficient and safe public transport system assists all Victorians to get where they are going.
- Inadequate service frequency and coverage – particularly in regional and outer-suburban growth areas – leaves people without transport choice to access work, school, or services.
- Collaborative planning and strategic State Government investment in services is required to create a turn-up-and-go public transport system.

Micro mobility and e-scooters

- Increasing the use of e-scooters is critical to improve local amenity and tackle climate change.
- Infrastructure must be in place to ensure the safety of all road and path users and needs to be a key focus of the current e-scooter trial.
- Councils have worked alongside the State Government to deliver the e-scooter trial and will continue to support the recent extension and expansion of the trial – which we hope ultimately leads to permanent use and improved infrastructure.



Zero emissions

- Converting to electric zero emission vehicles is an important element for public organisations addressing the climate emergency, given light vehicles account for 10 per cent of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions, councils support a smooth transition to electric zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) and are already investing in ZEVs and associated charging infrastructure.
- Investment in community charging and related road infrastructure should also be prioritised by all tiers of government.



Municipal Association of Victoria

Level 5, 1 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Telephone: 03 9667 5555

Email: inquiries@mav.asn.au

Website: www.mav.asn.au

September 2023