

TRANSPORT POLICY STATEMENT

The MAV's position on
key transport policies.

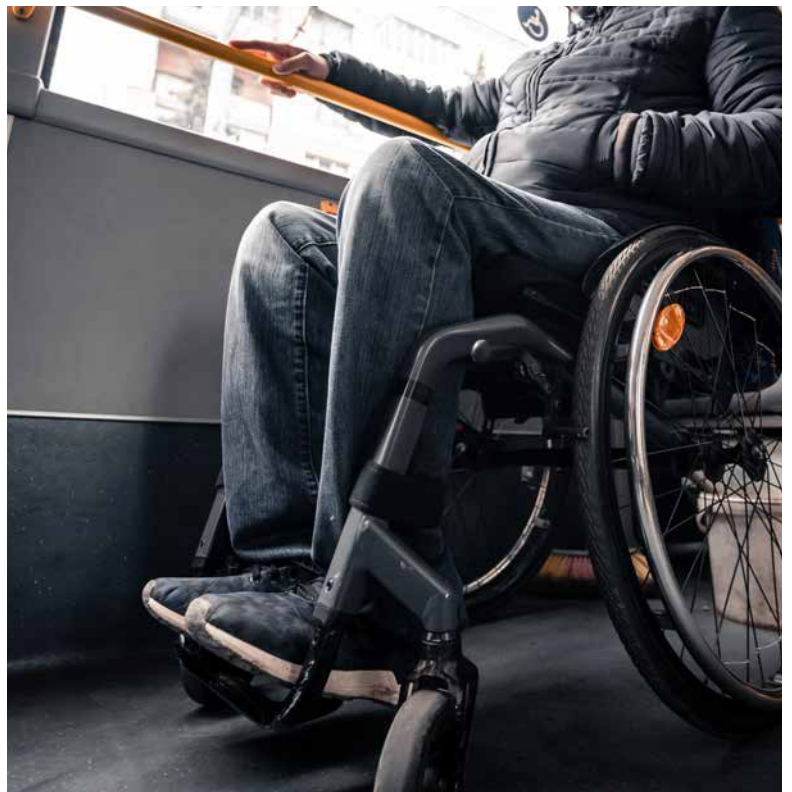
Locals know what locals need

Local government's role in transport

- Victorian councils play a critical role in the planning, funding, delivery and maintenance of transport infrastructure. Councils make land use planning and broader policy decisions that reflect community aspirations to create more liveable, productive and safe environments. They also advocate on behalf of local communities for further investment in local transport options. In some cases, they provide specific services such as community or school buses.
- State and Federal governments must recognise the important role of councils in transport planning for local community needs. They must ensure greater alignment between funding streams, major projects and local priorities.

Transport planning and engagement

- Victoria's population is projected to grow, particularly in regional areas. Communities across the state are seeing increased pressures on paths, roads and transport services. Better integration of land use and infrastructure planning is essential to control congestion, increase accessibility to critical services and improve community connection.
- Victorian councils are committed to a collaborative approach to transport planning. They expect early engagement from State and Federal governments. This must include consultation on project sequencing and timelines for investment to support local planning.
- Roads don't stop at municipal borders – funding programs should support greater collaboration between councils.
- Victorian councils calls for funding of long-term state-wide infrastructure plans and importantly, Victoria's transport plan – required under legislation.



Transport mode choice and accessibility

- Greater choice in transport options is an important priority for councils and communities. Equitable investment in all transport modes, in all communities, is essential and supports a more efficient network.
- Transport modes that support healthier and more resilient communities, such as walking and bike riding, should be prioritised for funding by all tiers of government.
- The transport network must be inclusive and accessible for all Victorians.

Road funding and safety

- Victorian councils are responsible for 87 per cent of the state's road network – approximately 133,000 kilometres in total – with a critical role in managing and maintaining safe local networks and associated assets.
- Councils and communities across Victoria need greater support from the State and Federal Government to deliver safe and well-maintained roads. Existing funding from other tiers of government is unsustainably low.
- Safer roads are a priority for councils and communities right across the state to ensure everyone can safely travel for work, education, shopping or leisure.
- In many rural and regional areas, the limited council revenue and large road network responsibilities makes it very difficult for councils to deliver other important community services.
- There needs to be a shift away from programs requiring quick delivery of shovel-ready projects to programs with minimal administrative burdens and greater flexibility.

Walking and bike riding

- Improving streets and paths for walking and bike riding and encouraging more people to take up active transport are important priorities.
- Walking and bike riding supports the social, economic, physical, and mental well-being of our communities
- It helps us to bust congestion across the road and public transport networks.
- Building walking and riding infrastructure, including paths and safe crossing points, threshold treatments, separated lanes and increased footpath width are all great ways to deliver local jobs as well as deliver wellness, social connection, helps the environment, and mobility benefits.



Freight

- Victorian councils are passionate supporters of local economies, job creation and sustainable business growth in communities right across the state. Strong economic growth is important for our recovery from COVID-19. However, councils don't want to see more freight movements and larger trucks on local streets.
- Freight movements in Victoria should occur primarily on the Principal Freight Network – on major roads and arterials away from quiet residential areas.
- In metropolitan areas, deliveries must get to businesses, shops, and homes safely and on time, while minimising inappropriate noise impacts after hours.
- In rural and regional areas, local road and freight infrastructure needs to be prioritised for increased funding by the State and Federal Government. This will help to ensure primary producers and regional businesses can get their produce, goods and other commodities to markets safely and efficiently.



Zero emissions vehicles

- Victorian councils support a smooth transition to electric zero emission vehicles (ZEVs).
- Victorian councils are already investing in ZEVs and associated charging infrastructure as part of broader objectives to reduce emissions, improve air quality, protect and enhance local amenity, and reduce lifecycle fleet maintenance costs.
- Councils across the state recognise that we are in a state of climate emergency that requires urgent action by all levels of government. Noting that light vehicles account for 10 per cent of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions, we consider a transition away from internal combustion engine vehicles to ZEVs to be one of a number of necessary actions to reduce emissions.
- Victorian councils support greater investment by all tiers of government in enhancing policy settings to encourage uptake of ZEVs. Such settings must ensure a cost effective and sustainable approach that encourages community uptake and supports Australian innovation and business growth in this important industry.
- Investment in community charging and related road infrastructure should also be prioritised by all tiers of government.

Public transport

- Better access to fast, frequent and safe public transport options is a priority for the MAV and Victorian councils.
- Improving access to public transport means people can get to where they want to go faster, opens the door to job and education opportunities, and reduces congestion on our roads.
- Investment in rolling stock and increased service frequency is supported along with a network-wide review of stops, stations and associated infrastructure to ensure an efficient and accessible network for all Victorians.
- Upgrading of public buses to zero emissions vehicles must be expedited in recognition of the climate emergency and improvements to local amenity.

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