

Doncaster Rail Study

Study Overview

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More information

Community input is an important part of the planning study process. As the project progresses, we will keep you informed about the range of options under consideration and give you the opportunity to provide feedback.

For more information about the project:

Visit www.transport.vic.gov.au/doncasterrail

Join the online discussion

Email doncasterrail@transport.vic.gov.au

Call 1800 078 387

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The Victorian Government recently announced the provision of \$6.5 million to examine a number of options for providing a high quality heavy rail link to Doncaster.

Doncaster is one of the most important commercial and civic centres within the City of Manningham. Although there has been significant growth in patronage of recently upgraded bus services from Doncaster to the CBD, the City of Manningham remains the only metropolitan Melbourne municipality without train or tram services.

Detailed investigations are being done to help the Government understand the requirements of a high quality heavy rail link for communities within the Manningham, Boroondara, Yarra, Whitehorse and Maroondah municipalities.

Study Objectives

The Doncaster Rail Study aims to provide an independent assessment of the requirements of constructing a heavy rail line to Doncaster. The study will:

- engage with key stakeholders and the community to assess travel needs and establish views on concept designs for a Doncaster rail line;
- provide concepts for a proposed Doncaster railway line
- ensure that the interface to the rail proposal integrates with all operational and strategic plans for the existing and future rail, tram and road network
- identify key issues, constraints and opportunities relating to transport efficiency and reliability, land use planning, and environmental, social and economic sustainability
- develop a report that provides recommendations to government for a heavy rail solution, with an assessment of potential impacts and how to minimise them.

The study will work out the best way to:

- meet patronage demand in the medium and long term within the Manningham, Boroondara and Melbourne municipalities
- provide a frequent, clean, reliable and higher capacity mode of public transport service for local communities
- improve integrated transport opportunities and land use
- achieve broader social, economic and environmental outcomes.

Cost and Duration

Cost: \$6.5 million

Duration: two years

Phase One 2011–2012

Phase Two 2012–2013

Consultation and Communication

A key part of undertaking the study is to engage with key stakeholders, business, industry, transport operators and the community. Early engagement will add value to the study process through assessing the community's travel needs and their perspective on current and future transport requirements for the local area.

A range of engagement tools and techniques will be used as part of the study process, including community workshops and drop in sessions, targeted interviews with key stakeholders, online engagement and a public submission process. In particular, engagement with relevant local governments will be critical throughout the study.

Study Scope

Phase One

1. Route alignment identification and short listing

A broad range of route options will be identified and considered. Any route selection will give consideration to longer term extensions east of Doncaster and beyond the City of Manningham.

2. Network and engineering implications

Each alignment option will be developed in the context of broader network implications, then short-listed and studied from an engineering and environmental impacts perspective.

3. Station Locations

For each corridor option, potential locations for railway stations will be identified and analysed at a high level. Some may be suggested for further study in Phase two.

Phase Two

During Phase two, a full impact assessment of routes will be done. This examination of short-listed options will involve more detailed corridor design analysis, the identification of key urban design issues and the examination of investment options and strategies.

Leadership

The study is being led by an independent study leader who will provide direction, independent oversight and reporting. Well-regarded in the transport industry, the study leader will coordinate, review and lead technical direction undertaken by the various technical streams and will also lead the community consultation process.

At the end of Phase one, the study leader will provide a report of recommendations to government that incorporates environmental, engineering and construction risks, as well as a cost-benefits analysis.

Integrated Transport Network Planning

The integrated transport network planning will investigate route opportunities, identify potential routes, and provide a clear methodology to filter and shortlist each of them.

The investigations will lead to the development of a Route Appraisal Framework including an analysis of:

- population, employment and social services
- land development potential, including real estate values
- travel demand, including current and potential patronage, origins and destinations
- current and planned rail services and potential impacts on the existing rail network
- train stabling and rail infrastructure;
- high level route engineering and environmental benefits and constraints
- social, environmental and economic impacts and opportunities
- potential impacts on current services, including road traffic and public transport services.

Engineering and Environmental Investigations

Civil engineering and environmental investigations will develop and/or test alignment options and possible solutions for a new railway. This work will include:

- detailed sketch designs and architectural concepts
- analysis of existing rail, road and building infrastructure
- identification and analysis of major utility assets, including power lines and water mains
- an overview of the location and specifications for proposed railway stations
- analysis of the requirements for connection to the existing rail network
- urban planning
- identification of potential land acquisition

- an analysis of groundwater and surface water conditions, potential site contamination, flora and fauna, cultural heritage, noise and vibration
- identification of opportunities for sustainable transport infrastructure
- consideration of accessibility requirements; and
- assessment and reporting of construction staging, timing and impacts.

The results of the engineering and environmental investigations will be provided in a report that summarises key findings, identifies risk areas, and provides recommendations for later design work.

Governance

The study will be the responsibility of the independent study leader contracted by the Department of Transport. The study leader will lead briefings on study progress and outcomes to stakeholders and the community, the Department of Transport and the Minister for Public Transport as required.

A State Government Interagency Advisory Group comprising of representatives from the Department of Transport (Public Transport Division), Department of Treasury and Finance and Department of Premier and Cabinet will facilitate resolution of issues during the study.

