

MOVING PEOPLE SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE

Brisbane, 17 & 18 March 2011

Leaders of the Passenger Transport Industry from around Australia, meeting in Brisbane were optimistic about the future. Representatives from industry, universities, community groups and government agencies met and agreed that the time was right for big decisions.

The focus was on initiatives that have made a real difference and on the opportunities to influence politicians and other decision makers to increase investment in Australia's sustainable transport system.

The Summit was convened by the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Australia (CILTA) and built on the national strategy "Moving People" developed jointly by the Australasian Railway Association (ARA), Bus Industry Confederation (BIC) & UITP and released in 2010. Summit participants called upon governments and other decision makers to:

- Continue to expand investment in public transport systems;
- Invest in marketing to encourage behaviour change and promote the benefits of public transport both to users and the wider community;
- Develop a national information database about how the passenger transport system performs; and
- Identify the initiatives that are making a positive difference and adopt them where possible.

Five Key Areas of Change

During the Summit participants examined five key areas of change and made recommendations to guide decision makers

- Focus on improvements to integrate land use and transport planning
 - Influence travel demand through integrated urban design and infrastructure planning including corridor reservation
 - Engage with the community to increase understanding of density and land use issues
 - Focus on living affordability (including transport costs) in the design of new communities
 - Introduce public transport capacity at the front end of developing new communities
- Public Transport innovation
 - Maximise the efficiency of existing public transport systems
 - All transport infrastructure investment should increase public transport capacity
 - A champion is needed to fast track transport pricing reform
 - Pursue innovative marketing techniques to enhance public transport image and capacity
- Alternative public transport
 - In low demand situations more flexible transport services can be an innovative way of meeting transport demand

- Taxis are an effective part of the public transport mix and should be involved in the decision making process
- High frequency public transport services
 - Evidence shows high frequency reliable services provided throughout the day at marginal cost can produce significant patronage gains
 - Investment in high frequency routes is a cheaper alternative to expensive road infrastructure
- Customer Service
 - Good customer service is underpinned by service reliability and frequency
 - Operators with authoritative knowledge need to be at the table
 - Customer service initiatives need to be underpinned by informative and reliable data

National Action

At the national level the summit called for a stronger emphasis on a consistent and well informed approach to land use planning and the understanding of density and its impact on transport systems. Other issues for national attention included:-

- Increasing frequency of services
- Transport Pricing Reform
- Travel Behaviour Change
- Ensuring tax settings support sustainable transport
- Coordination between levels of government
- Encouraging cooperation/partnerships
- Reviewing the institutional arrangements around transport
- Promote better utilization of existing equipment and infrastructure
- Providing accessibility opportunities for all

Resourcing Challenge

The difficulty of funding major improvements was recognised. The summit suggested the following options could be considered:-

- Opportunities for introducing special levies
- Utilizing savings from benefits e.g. health
- Including start up costs for public transport in development contributions
- Examine non-traditional funding sources such as capturing real estate benefits
- Look at premium public transport products to generate income
- Consider the value of borrowing for transport improvements
- Reallocating resources towards more sustainable ways of transport
- Transport Pricing Reform
- Careful review of operating and infrastructure costs

Time to act

Growing urban congestion and climate change pressures in particular, are highlighting shortcomings in land transport systems worldwide. Responding to these challenges and to the other critical national land transport issues will require transformational change.

A failure to act in an early and concerted manner will see congestion increase, climate change pressures from land transport continue to build, many people excluded from community participation, an unacceptable road toll and an increasingly uncertain energy future. This is not a future that Australians should accept.

The Summit called upon the Australian Transport Council (ATC) and the national committee of Transport Agency CEO's (SCOT) to establish a National Implementation Action group of 6 leaders comprising SCOT representatives and industry and community leaders to implement the recommendations of the "Moving People" national strategy and this Communiqué.

