

Draft Notice of Motion (pro forma for MTF member councils to consider, adapt and adopt)

**Motion:**

That Council:

1. Endorse in principle, an urgent call upon the Victorian Government to commit to a planned rollout that ensures the largest metropolitan transport system in the world becomes accessible for people using wheelchairs or experiencing mobility issues.
2. Support the Metropolitan Transport Forum in their advocacy campaign for a program of works to improve the rollout of accessible tram stop installations leading up to the 2026 state election, and that any program of works addresses the lack of equity to people who are not ambulant.
3. Call on the Government to clearly commit to delivering fully accessible tram routes on an annual basis (noting that some routes are considerably longer than others).

**Background:**

The Federal Government passed The Disability Discrimination Act in 1992 which requires fully accessible public transport to be provided by the end of 2022. This includes requirements for all tram stops to be compliant with the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (2002). So far, the Victorian Government have delivered one tram route with fully accessible stops on the Brunswick East - St Kilda, number 96 Tram route.

**Many disability advocates describe this situation as a breach of the UN convention on the rights of people with disability to live with mobility and to live a fulfilling life.**

**Successive Victorian Governments have failed to prioritise accessibility improvements and to demonstrate this with an annual program of works; at best investment has been patchy.** The lack of progress is unacceptable for a wealthy, outward looking and purportedly inclusive nation like Australia and state jurisdiction like Victoria.

While noting the complexity and challenges of a modern tram system and the much-needed renewal and infrastructure investment, the lack of clarity for Victorian's awaiting a system that does not solely have them rely upon trains for wheelchair access is unacceptable in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. **For example, the Maribyrnong Tram Depot is being improved and new G Class Trams (manufactured in Dandenong) which will be deployed on Route 58 – Toorak to West Coburg.** However, there is no clarity as to when access will be provided on this route, or any other tram route, to facilitate future planning for people with disabilities. This is a major concern where people with complex disabilities are being supported by our national NDIS, but state public transport infrastructure planning is not supporting people's planning and decisions for their future housing and service needs. **It is not too different to the COVID lockdowns so many Victorians experienced in 2020-21.**

**An improved public transport system also benefits elderly persons, parents with prams and shopping trolleys and those with temporary mobility issues too.**

29 July 2024