



Accessible Transport

Merri-bek

Our ask:

Invest in accessible tram stops along the Sydney Road Route 19 Tram Line.

Merri-bek City Council has long advocated for Victorian Government investment to ensure all public transport is accessible for people of all abilities. Accessible tram stops are critical for the higher number of residents in Merri-bek requiring assistance with core daily activities in comparison to greater Melbourne (6.5 per cent compared with 5.5 per cent respectively).⁸

Accessible tram stops can also deliver wider benefits for the community. They unlock access not just for people with disabilities but for seniors and parents with prams and offer safer boarding for all tram users and faster tram travel times.⁹

Level access stops also play an important role in urban renewal and improved economic outcomes for the nearby area. Accessible tram stops can transform the streetscape by widening footpaths, calming traffic and improving safety for all pedestrians – as well as creating spaces for greening, outdoor dining, and other public realm improvements.

Sydney Road is iconic in Melbourne, recognised as the longest shopping strip in the southern hemisphere. However, the community regularly reports dissatisfaction with the overall amenity of Sydney Road. It is a harsh urban environment dominated by cars, has a high vacancy rate of shopfronts, and few trees or other forms of shade. This lack of amenity is having a detrimental impact on local businesses.¹⁰

The *Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (DDA) required that all tram stops must be fully compliant with the *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002* (DSAPT) by 31 December 2022 and it is clear there are many other benefits to accessible tram stops.

Victoria's infrastructure strategy 2025-2055 has recommended the State Government complete priority public transport stop upgrades to meet legal accessibility requirements and fund further upgrades; it should fund the highest priority stop upgrades and aim to finish them by 2030.¹¹

In 2023 the Victorian Government's *Melbourne's Tram Plan* outlined a new corridor-based approach to delivery of accessible stop upgrades based on four broad criteria accessibility, safety, movement, and place.

The Sydney Road corridor – one of the most heavily used roads for motor vehicles, trams, cyclists and pedestrians in Melbourne – should be a high priority for accessible tram stop upgrades under the framework outlined in *Melbourne's Tram Plan*.

The 2026-27 Victorian State Budget included funding for planning for level access tram stops along Sydney Road in Brunswick and Coburg. Council welcomes the funding and urges the Victorian Government to further commit to the delivery of these upgrades that will be transformational for residents, traders and visitors in Brunswick and Coburg.