

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry into Expanding Melbourne's Free Tram Zone (including broader public transport issues).

In our Boroondara Community Plan 2017-27, travel options that are connected, safe, accessible, environmentally sustainable and well-designed are identified as a core strategic objective. Improvements to public transport services throughout the City will directly support this objective and unlock a variety of benefits for our community.

Council's Integrated Transport Strategy promotes advocacy for Improved Local Public Transport Ticketing, including a review of the significance of short trip tickets in encouraging local short trips. It also recognises the importance of discounted fares for the elderly.

A dynamic public transport pricing model could be incredibly valuable in encouraging public transport use particularly for short to medium range trips. A common criticism of the current ticket pricing model is that passengers travelling only a few stops are mostly subject to the same fare as those travelling a significantly longer distance. This can act as a major disincentive as there is a distinct lack of value for money associated with these shorter trips to the point where driving a personal vehicle may be a cheaper alternative. A fairer pricing model to better accommodate for the wide variety of trip types should be explored.

The removal of fares for full-time students and senior members of the community would likely provide a number of benefits for these groups of people who are often on limited incomes, including improved access to study facilities and community events. The safety and security of these vulnerable user groups should also be improved wherever possible to maximise patronage and community wellbeing.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide our feedback on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Mihaila

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