

10 November 2021

The Honourable Mark Bailey MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
GPO Box 2644
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Via email: transportandmainroads@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

Sunshine Coast Mass Transit Project Options Analysis – Gateway Review & Detailed Business Case arrangements

I am pleased to advise that on 20 October 2021, Sunshine Coast Council endorsed the Sunshine Coast Mass Transit (SCMT) Options Analysis, which incorporates the outcomes of the extensive community engagement process undertaken from April to the end of June this year.

The Sunshine Coast continues to be one of the fastest growing regional centres in Australia, even with the impact of COVID 19 and border closures. It is also now the largest regional centre in Australia without a mass transit system to support its growth and contribution to the national economy. Council recognises that the current growth trajectory and reliance on the private motor vehicle (second only to Perth) is not sustainable without a catalytic change to public transport. A change is also needed to support the Sunshine Coast in discharging its responsibilities as a key Delivery Partner in the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Council has progressed the development of the Options Analysis to understand the problems, evaluate a long list of options and conduct a preliminary social, economic, environmental and technical assessment of a shorter list of options. To inform this process, Council undertook significant consultation with the community and key stakeholders over eight weeks and fifty separate engagement activities.

Council's resolution and the SCMT Options Analysis are provided at **Attachments 1 and 2** respectively. The Council resolution sets forth the specific considerations and actions as endorsed by Council.

Further to the commitments agreed in May 2019 that the State would partner with Council to develop the Mass Transit detailed business case (DBC), Council now seeks to progress through the gateway review process, before commencing the Detailed Business Case in partnership with the Queensland Government. Council officers will liaise with the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) on the approach that is required to progress through this process.

Page 1 of 2

For your awareness, an Infrastructure Australia (IA) Stage 2 submission for the SCMT Options Analysis (refer to **Attachment 3**) has been transmitted to IA for its consideration and potential inclusion of SCMT in IA's 2022 Infrastructure Priority List.

As mentioned in a letter from Council's Chief Executive Officer to the Director-General of your department on 8 August 2021, Council envisages that DTMR's preparation of the DBC would be undertaken in collaboration with Council and would therefore be subject to an agreed governance arrangement.

To this end, Council would like to suggest that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) be established, setting out the program and scope of the DBC preparation process and the respective roles and responsibilities of DTMR and Council.

Council would also like to suggest that it would also be useful to establish a Steering Group to oversee the preparation of the DBC, supported by a Technical Working Group, given the respective interests of DTMR and Council in the outcomes.

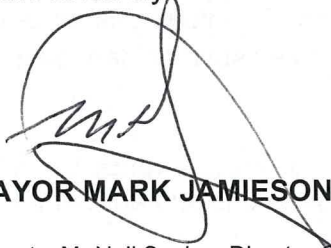
Ideally, the Steering Group and Technical Working Group should be established in the near future to enable the DBC preparation process to get underway. It is envisaged the Steering Group would meet at the key decision points set down in the DBC program and the Technical Working Group would meet monthly throughout the preparation process.

I would be grateful if DTMR could advise of its preferred content for the MoU and its nominated membership of the Steering and Technical Working Groups.

Council looks forward to working collaboratively with DTMR to support the preparation of the DBC for Sunshine Coast Mass Transit.

If you or your officers have any questions in relation to the above, Mr James Coutts, Council's Program Director, Urban Growth is available to assist and can be contacted on 5420 8095; 0411 228 904 or at james.coutts@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



MAYOR MARK JAMIESON

Copy to: Mr Neil Scales, Director General, DTMR
Ms Emma Thomas, Chief Executive Officer, Sunshine Coast Council
Ms Sally Stannard, Acting Deputy Director General, Translink
Mr Scott Whittaker, Regional Director (North Coast)
Ms Anne-Marie Moxham, Director Project Evaluation

Encl:

Attachment 1: Council resolution of 20 October 2021
Attachment 2: Sunshine Coast Mass Transit Options Analysis
Attachment 3: Infrastructure Australia Stage 2 submission