



ACT Government

2003-2004 BUDGET

INNOVATIVE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

\$2.5 million has been allocated in the 2003-2004 ACT Budget for a range of integrated transport projects to implement the first phase of the ACT Government's Sustainable Transport policies, Planning Minister Simon Corbell announced today.

"These priority initiatives are designed to shift the balance of travel in the ACT from single-person private vehicle trips, towards greater use of public transport, cycling, walking and multi-person private vehicle trips," Mr Corbell said today.

The Sustainable Transport Plan will provide an integrated policy framework for a long-term sustainable transport system for Canberra to achieve the economic, social and spatial goals of the Canberra Plan. With a draft scheduled for mid 2003, the emerging direction from the studies and consultations to date are clear and the Stanhope Government is taking the opportunity to fund initiatives in this Budget to 'kick start' the implementation of the Plan in the 2003-2004 financial year.

"It is clear that in future a more sustainable transport system will require more transport options and a greater role for public transport, cycling and walking. The transport studies show that to develop the role of public transport systems there is a need for positive and concerted investment and support of public transport services and facilities. There is also a need for complementary and supporting policies such as parking management strategies.

"The initiatives in 2003/2004 are consistent with this direction and will support the thrust and momentum of the Plan, while providing some flexibility to address specific projects identified in the final Sustainable Transport Plan," Mr Corbell said.

Bus Priority Measures

"Reducing public transport travel times has been identified as the main factor in attracting new users to the system and \$250,000 has been allocated in this Budget for the design of bus priority measures directed at those parts of the system that cause the most delay for ACTION services. \$50,000 of this money has been identified for bus priority work on Flemington Road.

Bus Interchanges

"Existing bus interchanges were identified as one of the most negative aspects of the ACT's system by existing users. New bus interchange concepts have been developed for Belconnen and Woden through their respective Town Centre Master Plans. \$60,000 has been allocated for design work on the Belconnen bus interchange. A further \$120,000 has been earmarked for design work for Woden Bus interchange and upgrade of other interchanges. Real time information systems help to overcome the uncertainty associated with waiting for buses and these systems are to be investigated for inclusion in interchanges and at key stops in future.



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“A further \$100,000 has been allocated to maintain the ongoing program to improve bus stop facilities.

“An additional \$220,000 has been provided to continue the upgrade of bus stops to meet the Government’s commitment to comply with the Disability Transport Standards. This work complements the bus fleet replacement program that will see new low floor accessible buses operating in 2003-04.”

Demand-Responsive Feeder Services

“ACTION operates with very low levels of patronage in late night periods and this deters patronage. In other cities, taxis and mini-buses provide more flexible and low cost services. We are seeking to develop more flexible and demand-responsive public transport at affordable prices, to improve the level of service to customer especially for after-hours services and to make the system more efficient. The Budget funding of \$90,000 will be used to develop a business model for implementation of these services, possibly involving ACTION buses, taxis and community transport providers.”

Parking Management

The ACT Government will invest \$470,000 for the implementation of on street paid parking in the Barton office precinct, consistent with the National Capital Authority’s plans for off street paid parking. This parking measure supports the Government’s sustainable transport strategy and will make parking arrangements in Barton consistent with other major centres in the ACT. Additional funding of \$90,000 to develop a business and development model for structured parking in commercial areas including town centres.

TravelSmart

“A national travel behaviour program, TravelSmart – Way to Go, will be extended in the ACT after a highly successful pilot project last year. These programs provide information and assistance for people to reduce unnecessary trips, carpool, use public transport or increase their physical activity by cycling or walking. Funding in 2003-2004 of \$160,000 will be used for targeted household and workplace programs.”

Travel Data

“A travel database will be established for future transport planning. Currently about 75 per cent of travelling to work is made by car. Travel patterns have become more complex over the past 20 years and work trips are just one reason for using transport. Trip complexity needs to be understood to have better transport models, provide better transport options and input into strategic land use planning. Best practice in transport data is for integrated databases, including regular surveys of households and incorporation and analysis of databases such as traffic counts, public transport patronage statistics and demographic data. \$80,000 has been identified to establish the first phase of the data base.”

New ACTION Bus Services for Gungahlin

Mr Corbell said ACTION bus services in Amaroo and Yerrabi would be enhanced to provide the same level of service as available elsewhere in the ACT. “The Stanhope Government’s 2003-2004 Budget commits \$737,000 for the first 12 months of this project and ongoing funding that will be progressively increased over the next three years up to \$755,000 in 2006-07,” he said.

Community Cycling and Walking Paths

“\$40,000 has been allocated by the Stanhope Government to review the ACT’s network of community cycling and walking paths to identify gaps in the network and those parts of the network that require upgrading or improvement.”

Implementation of The Sustainable Transport Plan

“\$140,000 has also been identified for further studies and planning work on the implementation of the next stages of Sustainable Transport Plan,” Mr Corbell announced.
Statement ends.