



November 25, 2015

Commuters and business the focus of public transport report

The Committee for Perth and RAC today officially launched Get a Move On! – a year-long research project that will be the first comprehensive study that asks Perth commuters and the business community what kind of practical, long-term public transport system they want.

The fact-based project will also define and quantify the social, economic and environmental impacts of our under-stress transport network.

“The Committee for Perth has been long-term advocates for an integrated, public transport plan for the Perth and Peel region. In recent years, congestion on our freeways, roads and on public transport has become a flashpoint in our community and is an issue that can’t be ignored. It is clear that we need a 21st century solution so we need to explore all alternatives,” said Committee for Perth CEO, Marion Fulker.

“After releasing a draft public transport plan for comment in 2011, the State Government still hasn't finalised a plan for how to move the people of Perth regardless of what option they choose be it car, train, bus, riding or walking.”

The Get a Move On! commuter survey, the first research insight, has identified what transport people currently use, the cost and impact of commuting on their lives, their transport preferences for the future and the trade-offs they would be prepared to make to improve their transport options.

The survey conducted during October and early November of more than 2,000 people found that:

- 71% of people use their car because it's convenient, 70% because it's faster
- 64% of drivers are frustrated by congestion
- 65% of train users believe it's overcrowded, compared to 42% of bus users
- 65% of people use buses because it's cost efficient, compared to 56% of train users
- Only 48% of bus users found it convenient
- 96% of cyclists and 87% of walkers did it because it provided health benefits
- 59% of cyclists have safety concerns
- 53% of cyclists say there is a lack of cycleways
- The average cost of paying for parking is \$9.70 a day
- Light rail is the number one public transport option for middle and inner areas of the CBD

In the New Year, businesses will be asked to identify and quantify the impacts of congestion on productivity, the trade-offs and changes they would and wouldn't be willing to make to reduce congestion and asked about their innovative ideas and solutions for the future.

RAC Executive General Manager Advocacy and Members and Chair of the Get a Move On! Steering Committee, Pat Walker, said RAC is partnering with Committee for Perth to help shape the future of mobility in and around our city.

“Get a Move On! is a very exciting opportunity and RAC is very pleased to be able to collaborate and partner on a new and important project,” Mr Walker said.

“RAC is a member organisation, representing more than 820,000 Western Australians. Our advocacy is driven by the need to find more options for our members, so they can move around their city and neighbourhoods in a safe, easy and sustainable manner.

“Our region is growing and changing but we have a chance to influence and shape our future.

“Get a Move On! is one way to help plan and shape transport and land use development into the future. It is an opportunity to prioritise and to balance the demands of today with the needs of tomorrow.”

Mrs Fulker said the timing of Get a Move On! couldn't be better.

“The Committee for Perth's 2015 Perth Resident's Survey, carried out earlier this year, showed a large disconnect between what people wanted when it came to transport options and what was currently being delivered,” added Mrs Fulker.

“89% of people rated an efficient public transport system as being important for Perth's future, while only 17% thought anything was being done about it. Almost 80% of people believe that being able to easily walk or ride around Perth was an issue, while only 33% believed this goal was being achieved.

The recent RAC CCI Congestion Survey also revealed that congestion negatively impacts on 83% of businesses and people in the Perth region. Infrastructure Australia says Perth will have the most congested roads in the country by 2031 and the cost to businesses will be \$6 billion every year.

“As part of kick-starting the Get a Move On! project not only have we released results from the Perth Commuter Survey we are also hosting a week-long visit by Gordon Price, Director of the City Program at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. The purpose of his visit is to see what Perth can learn from Vancouver's transformation,” Mrs Fulker added.

“Over the next 12 months we will be releasing a number of research findings with the final being released late in 2016. The next state election is only a few months later and our aim is that Get a Move On! will help to frame the debate and inform discussion about Perth's commuter transport needs. We want policy and decision makers to be fully informed about what the people of Perth and Peel want now and into the future in terms of moving in and around Perth,” Mrs Fulker added.

As well as the commuter and business surveys, a business and community summit will be held with locals, organisations and experts to identify new solutions to Perth's transport problems and how to fund them.

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