



# Public Transport Strategy and Regional Review

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**SNAPSHOT**

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**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Infrastructure  
and Transport

**Build.**  
**Move.**  
**Connect.**

# How we're creating a better public transport network for South Australia

We want to create a future public transport network that gives people the freedom to choose how they get around, no matter where they live or work.

We're developing a Public Transport Strategy that will set the vision for public transport in South Australia for the next 30 years. It will provide direction on how we create a public transport network to meet the needs of South Australians, now and in the future.

We recognise the unique needs and challenges of our regional communities, so we're also undertaking a Regional Public Transport Review. This detailed review will help us better understand the public transport priorities of people living and working in these areas so we can better cater for them in the future.



## Public Transport Strategy

Public transport plays a crucial role in enabling social, economic and environmental benefits and helps to drive growth and prosperity in our state.

The Public Transport Strategy will help us deliver a more resilient, reliable and accessible public transport network, boosting economic growth and encouraging more sustainable ways to travel.

It will set the overall direction for future public transport planning and guide decisions on which projects to prioritise and invest in. It will help ensure that our transport network is ready for the future and that South Australia remains a great place to live and do business.

To develop the Public Transport Strategy, we will build upon what you've already told us during consultation for the recently published South Australian Transport Strategy. We'll engage further on key aspects of public transport so we have a deeper understanding of what's important to you.





## Regional Public Transport Review

South Australia has an extensive regional public transport network, with services operating in 19 contracted regions.

Our regional communities have unique needs and challenges so we're doing a deep dive into public transport in these areas through our Regional Public Transport Review.

The review will identify key needs and gaps in the current services for regional communities, with the aim of providing recommendations that will enhance the regional public transport network in South Australia.

**We're engaging with communities and stakeholders on our Public Transport Strategy and Regional Review at the same time, so we can get a full picture of our public transport needs across the state.**

**As a South Australian, you have a chance to add your voice to the conversation by telling us what's important to you. Have your say and ensure we build a future that benefits many generations to come.**

# Why does South Australia need a Public Transport Strategy?

Our population is growing and we can't build our way out of road congestion. We need to provide convenient, reliable and attractive transport alternatives to driving.

An additional 670,000 people are expected to be living in our state by 2051, and enhancing our public transport network will help us to manage congestion and maintain liveability into the future.

Additionally, the South Australia Government has committed to at least 60% reduction in emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. Increasing use of public transport will help us to achieve those goals.

## Key drivers informing the strategy

National and global trends and drivers of change will present challenges and opportunities for public transport in South Australia over the coming years.

There are six key drivers that will shape the future of our public transport network:



**Expanding our roads alone will not solve congestion:** As South Australia grows, demand on our road network will increase. However, we

cannot build our way out of congestion. To create a sustainable, efficient and reliable transport system, we need to prioritise public transport investments.



**Safety is everything:** Our communities value safety across the the entire transport system. Safety has a major impact on their decisions to choose

public transport. Ongoing advancements in technology can be leveraged to facilitate a safer, more secure and reassuring travel environment.



**A growing population with increasing public transport needs:** South Australia's population is growing. Public transport will be key to

enhancing connectivity to emerging regions and employment opportunities. Proactive planning is needed to integrate public transport with new housing. Aligning it with land use planning will support sustainable growth and improve connectivity.



**Empowered and digitally connected customers:** Public transport systems globally are embracing digital-first interactions to meet the rising

expectations of connected people for reliable and efficient services. This includes embracing real-time data to enable seamless end-to-end journey planning. We're focusing on the integration of first and last mile solutions, like e-scooters, bike-sharing and park 'n' rides to enhance convenience and choice for customer journeys from end-to-end.



**Accelerating the transition to sustainable mobility:** Transitioning from private vehicles to public transport is crucial for reducing

greenhouse gas emissions and achieving climate targets, including those committed in South Australia's Net Zero Strategy. Enhancing the attractiveness of public transport and transitioning the public transport fleet to more sustainable alternatives will support lower emissions, improve air quality and contribute to relieving road congestion.



**Maintaining a future-focused public transport system:** Maintaining a future-focused public transport system in South Australia demands an adaptable

workforce, smart use of data and the integration of new technology. Continuous investment in new technology and our workforce will support a more efficient network, and one that is adaptable to changing conditions.

# Strategic context

The Public Transport Strategy is a sub-strategy of South Australia's Transport Strategy and aligns with other long-term plans that define the aspirations and future direction of our state.



\* Indicative document hierarchy. The SA Road Safety Strategy and Freight and Supply Chain Strategy are complete. The remainder are under development, or will commence imminently.



# Draft strategic outcomes

We've already learned a lot from South Australians about our transport network, and we're using that knowledge, along with global trends and data, to shape a strategy for the future of our state.

Based on what we already know, we've drafted five strategic outcomes and what these elements could look like for public transport.



## **A connected South Australia, now and in the future**

How do we enhance our public transport network to get people where they need to go, support population and economic growth, strengthen connections to our regions, and respond to changing demands and travel patterns?



## **Liveable and Sustainable communities**

How do we transition to net-zero emissions and enhance liveability through transport hubs and corridors?



## **Moving more people, more reliably, more often**

How do we make sure our public transport services are fast, efficient and reliable?



## **Safe and accessible public transport for everyone**

How do we provide a positive and safe public transport experience for everyone, regardless of their needs and abilities?



## **A great customer experience**

How do we create a public transport system that provides comfort, easy connections and an intuitive digital experience?

## These draft strategic outcomes outline what we need to prioritise over the next 30 years.



### **A connected South Australia, now and in the future**

- Providing a public transport system that gets people where they need to go.
- Expanding and strengthening public transport connections to enable population and economic growth.
- Enhancing regional connectivity through public transport.
- Providing public transport services to ensure people in regional South Australia have access to essential services, education, and employment opportunities.
- Providing transport nodes and interchanges at key strategic locations integrated with active and personal mobility.
- Developing strategically located interchanges and transport hubs that integrate buses, trains, trams and other transport options.



### **Moving more people, more reliably, more often**

- Ensuring public transport is a competitive travel choice.
- Improving the speed, frequency, and reliability of public transport, making it a competitive and attractive option for more South Australians.
- Enhancing operational efficiency through modern systems and technologies.
- Focusing on optimising the current public transport system to ensure it operates efficiently, while also planning for the integration of automation and advanced technologies.



### **Liveable and sustainable communities**

- Transitioning the public transport system towards net zero.
- Transforming public transport to be cleaner and more sustainable. Reducing emissions through net zero-emission vehicles and greener infrastructure.
- Placemaking around transport hubs and corridors to enhance the physical environment.
- Creating vibrant, welcoming spaces around transport hubs and corridors that support local businesses, encourage walking and cycling, and enhance community connection.



### **Safe and accessible public transport for everyone**

- Enhancing safety across the public transport system.
- Continuing to prioritise the safe movement of people across South Australia's public transport system, ensuring a secure environment for both passengers and staff.
- Ensuring accessible travel for all.
- Continuing to develop an accessible and welcoming public transport system, ensuring that people of all abilities can travel independently and with confidence.



### **A great customer experience**

- Making it easier for customers to plan journeys aligned to their needs and preferences.
- Expanding access to flexible, real-time information that supports effortless journey planning and wayfinding for passengers.
- Enhancing service quality to ensure a pleasant and comfortable experience.
- Prioritising cleanliness, comfort, and access to assistance across the transport network to enhance passenger experience.

# Get involved

## Let's create our public transport future together!

We want to know what's important to you when it comes to public transport in our state. By providing your feedback, you can help us shape a public transport future that works for you now and for generations to come.

Your feedback will help us to develop key actions that will form the basis of our Public Transport Strategy. It will also inform the Regional Public Transport Review to address regional public transport needs.

### You can get involved by:

- Exploring what aspects of public transport are most important to you through our interactive transport choices game.
- Completing the 'Future of public transport' online survey.
- Attending an information session or webinar.
- Submitting a written submission.

For more information visit,  
[www.dit.sa.gov.au/public-transport-future](http://www.dit.sa.gov.au/public-transport-future)

**Have your say** by Friday 27 June



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