

PerthLink: Mid-tier transport FAQs

What is mid-tier public transport?

Mid-tier public transport is a term used to describe a range of transit technologies such as trackless trams, light rail and bus rapid transit that support the broader passenger transport network, such as fixed rail trains and established bus routes.

Where will it go?

The consortium of 15 local governments is currently working together to map out some prospective routes in each council that would be suitable for mid-tier transport development. Decisions about the types of mid-tier technologies used will be decided by relevant State Transport Authorities.

The mid-tier public transport mapping has the potential to detail and progress a number of 'preferred' routes. The consortium will consider early route identification, with a focus on the main mid-tier public transit corridors to enable further detailed planning, ideally leading to the preparation of a State Government-driven Mid-Tier Public Transport Strategy for Perth.

How much will it cost?

We all realise that investment in public transport infrastructure is costly but has enormous benefits. A state-led strategy will help determine the cost of linking Perth's METRONET with a mid-tier passenger network that offers a truly integrated transport solution for Perth's growing suburbs.

The cost will be offset by the long-term benefits of early planning to ensure more efficient designs and a transport network that anticipates Perth and Peel's projected growth which is expected to reach 3.5m by 2050. An investment in the expansion of Perth's mid-tier public transport network is an investment in the future.

It is important to act now with a coordinated approach to alleviate cost of living pressures, decrease traffic congestion and related pollutants, improve travel options for those without cars, and ensure we don't leave a more expensive bill for the next generation to face.

The consortium is seeking WA State Government support to fund the appropriate state government agencies to promote and finalise a Mid-Tier Public Transport Strategy for Perth and Peel between 2023 and 2025.

Why do we need it?

A critical housing shortage in Perth, coupled with projected population increases, means a need to look at greater diversity in housing and transport choices to support population mobility and growth.

Agile and flexible mid-tier transport options encourage and support greater housing diversity in Perth's inner, middle and outer suburbs because people are given more travel options to journey to work, day care, shopping or access essential services such as health care.

Coupled with the benefits of reduced environmental impact from emissions, mid-tier transport complements local and state government objectives for more a sustainable urban housing approach and the State Government's *Perth and Peel @ 3.5m* policy agenda.

The Mid-Tier Public Transport Strategy for Perth will give certainty to local governments across the Metropolitan area to undertake detailed planning through Local Planning Strategies and Local Planning Schemes to utilise the benefits of knowing the Mid-Tier Public Transport corridors for Perth. The strategy will also give much needed certainty to the housing industry.

How does it affect me and where I live?

A key focus of local governments and the consortium is to create connected communities with access to a range of amenities and a safe, clean environment for current and future generations.

We recognise that any infrastructure development means some construction and inconvenience so we are working closely with urban planners, environmental experts and state government agencies, such as the Department for Transport, Public Transport Authority and Main Roads WA, to minimise impacts to local communities and the natural environment.

Network plans for the mid-tier public transport project will focus on the main transit corridors linking Perth's east and west and connecting new and existing stations through key activity centres such as major shopping centres, employment hubs, learning centres and tourism destinations.

How much will it cost me to use the transport options?

The cost of each transport option will be determined once the most appropriate choice for each suburb has been identified.

How is this different from METRONET?

Jointly funded by the Australian and WA State Governments, METRONET is one of WA's largest transport projects, focusing on connecting Perth's expanding suburbs with approximately 72 kilometres of new fixed rail line and 22 new train stations.

Mid-tier public transport seeks to build on that vision by encouraging local government and state government collaboration to fill the gaps between METRONET's rail service and the needs of the communities not on the rail lines or bus routes.

By the time of METRONET's likely completion around 2030, we would already be sure to see the effects of population growth on transport congestion. Having the mid-tier roll-out in place by then would be key to ensuring the success of METRONET and the sustainable growth of our communities.

When will this all happen?

Represented by the City of Canning, the Consortium is seeking a commitment from the State Government in the next financial year to fund and prepare a Mid-Tier Transport Strategy for the Perth and Peel regions. It is envisaged the Strategy would be completed in the 24/25 Financial year.

Who makes up the local government consortium?

The Local Government Consortium consists of the following Local Governments which have signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing to the creation of a preliminary Mid-Tier Public Transport Network Plan for the Inner and Middle Councils within the Perth Metropolitan area.

- City of Canning
- City of Stirling
- City of Bayswater

- Town of Nedlands
- Town of Victoria Park
- City of Melville
- Town of East Fremantle
- City of Fremantle
- City of Cockburn
- City of Kwinana
- City of Rockingham

The Inner City Councils of South Perth, Perth, Vincent and Subiaco have also agreed to support the project. The consortium has also engaged with the Department for Transport, Public Transport Authority and Main Roads WA to prepare the preliminary Mid-Tier Public Transport Network Plan.