

Integrated Transport

ACT Labor is committed to building a better city and a stronger community by making massive investments in Canberra's transport infrastructure.

Our public transport system is going from strength to strength thanks to ACT Labor's investment of more than \$243 million into an improved ACTION bus service. We have completely reformed the ACTION service with a new network' new, environmentally friendly and wheelchair-accessible, buses, more generous concessions and plans for a new ticketing system. The new ACTION Network 08 is already attracting an average of 24,000 passengers on weekdays.

ACT Labor is preparing for the future,. We're investing massively in road infrastructure to cut commuting times and improve business productivity, while also expanding our extensive network of bike paths to encourage Canberrans out of their cars. We have also just commissioned a business case for a light rail network..

ACT Labor is committed to tackling climate change, and that means addressing the impact that our transport system has on the environment. We have already implemented the ACT's first strategic bus replacement program, with \$58 million for 116 new, green buses in the first phase.

ACT Labor has also made it easier, safer and quicker to travel by road and has invested in infrastructure, such as bike paths and pedestrian areas, that encourages people to leave the car in the driveway. We are creating more Park and Ride options for commuters, and bicycle riders who use the on-bus bike racks now travel for free.

ACT Labor has made it easier for older Canberrans to travel by bus. We have extended half-price travel for Seniors Card holders to all routes and all times, and introduced a Gold Card that allows all Canberrans aged over 75 to travel on ACTION buses for free. A third of the ACT's over-75s have already taken up the Gold Card offer.

Through the *Building the Future* infrastructure program announced in the 2008/09 Budget ACT Labor is investing \$250 million over the next five years in transport infrastructure.

The ACT Labor Government has also released its *Integrated Transport Framework* to improve efficiency right across the transport system, address traffic congestion, minimising emissions and give the community greater transport options.

ACT Labor has been able to do all of this, and deliver much more, because we have been responsible economic managers and have invested in real improvements to the ACT's transport system. We now have the capacity to do even more to create a truly integrated system and give Canberrans the best possible options to get where they need to go.

Jon Stanhope
Chief Minister

John Hargreaves
Minister for Territory and Municipal
Services

A Proud Record of Investment in Canberra's Transport System

ACT Labor recognises that transport is central to any planning for the future development of our city.

That's why we have incorporated transport into our guiding policy documents – the *Territory Plan*, the *Spatial Plan*, the *Sustainable Transport Plan*, the *Accessible Public Transport Action Plan*, the *ACT Affordable Housing Strategy*, and *Weathering the Change – the ACT Climate Strategy 2007-2025*. Our long-term vision has been outlined in the Integrated Transport Framework, released in August 2008, which focuses on improving efficiency right across the transport system, addressing traffic congestion, minimising emissions and giving the community greater transport options.

ACT Labor has made significant investments in improving public transport and transport infrastructure, including developing an integrated transport framework that draws together sustainable transport, public transport, road safety, the taxi system, cycleways, pedestrian access, community transport needs, car parking and road infrastructure.

As part of ACT Labor's *Building the Future* program, announced in the 2008/09 Budget, we are investing \$250 million over the next five years in transport infrastructure.

ACT Labor is determined to make a sustainable public transport system a real option for Canberrans, but also recognises the reality that the car will remain as the main form of transport for many.

The legacy of our physical sprawl and our relative affluence mean the private car remains the most common means of transport, with nearly 84% of all Canberrans making their way to work by car.

Still, improvements ACT Labor has made to the ACTION service have seen one in two Canberrans travel by bus over the past 12 months, and there's now a high level of satisfaction with ACTION's overall customer service.

Our Record

Since coming to office the ACT Labor Government has:

- Provided more than \$243 million for the ACTION bus service:
 - Formulated and funded the Territory's first strategic bus replacement program with an initial investment of \$58 million for 116 new buses;
 - Introduced an improved timetable and route system called Network 08 at a cost of \$38.9 million, which now attracts an average of 25,000 passengers a day;
- Completed the Gungahlin Drive Extension, the largest single road construction project since self-government;
- Invested more than \$3 million to extend and repair Canberra's cycleways, including on-road cycleways;

- Improved seniors transport services at a cost of \$3 million;
- Introduced the Gold Card, which allows Canberrans aged 75 years or over to travel by bus for free, at a cost of \$500,000;
- Introduced free travel for bike riders who use a bus fitted with a bike rack;
- Reformed the taxi industry by introducing a new taxi company, issuing 40 new taxi licences during 2007 and conducting a ballot for a further 50 during 2008, introducing the Nightlink service and a better Wheelchair Accessible Taxi service;
- Enhanced the hire-car industry through buy-backs from some operators, new licensing arrangements and more competitive regulation. There are now twice as many hire cars as there were when ACT Labor came to government;
- Resealed nearly 900 kilometres of road pavements;
- Filled nearly 13,300 potholes;
- Replaced over 18,517 road signs;
- Swept close to 70,000 kilometres of roadway;
- Painted more than 262 kilometres of line marking;
- Constructed Horse Park Drive from Gundaroo Drive to the Federal Highway; and
- Commenced the upgrade of roads to and from the airport.

In the 2008-09 Budget, the ACT Labor Government committed in excess of \$80 million to transport improvements, including:

- Substantial investment in new road works, including the Molonglo arterial road for new suburbs, duplication of Athllon Drive, Tharwa Drive and Flemington Road, realignment of the Kings Highway and Lanyon Drive, and investigation of upgrades for the Cotter Road and rehabilitation of the Majura Road Pavement;
- Further upgrades of airport roads;
- Temporary surface car parking in Watson Street, Turner;
- Investigating the feasibility of temporary car parking within Commonwealth Avenue's western loops;
- Investigating the feasibility of upgrading the intersection of Flemington Road, Sandford Street and Morisset Road;
- The Flemington Road Duplication;
- Rehabilitation of Cotter Road Pavement;
- Upgrade of the Wakefield Avenue and Dooring Street intersection;
- Community Paths Program and Cotter Road Cycle Connections;
- New 'Park and Ride' and 'Bike and Ride' facilities;
- Upgrading the Belconnen Town Centre and Cohen Street Extension;
- More than \$3 million for road and bridge safety work; and
- Invested more than \$40 million for parking initiatives.

Moving Forward

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will implement the Integrated Transport Framework and integrate transport priorities with land use planning.

We will re-commit to the targets set in the Sustainable Transport Plan and promote urban form and transport options that minimize greenhouse gas emissions.

ACT Labor will also develop a transport system that meets the needs of the community, whilst ensuring that it is efficient and effective and supports a strong economy.

Implementing the *Integrated Transport Framework*

The ACT Labor Government released the *Integrated Transport Framework (Framework)* in August 2008. A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to implement the *Framework*, which establish a set of principles to govern consideration of transport policies and initiatives both now and into the future.

The *Framework* will guide our planning for future transport use so we can create a sustainable transport system which meets the needs of the ACT community.

ACT Labor's sustainable transport system will allow both people and goods to move around freely and efficiently, whether for work or play. It will be a safe and reliable transport system which is adaptable to the changing circumstances of the ACT.

Key Actions to be undertaken over the next term include:

- Providing net benefits for the ACT economy by improving the efficiency of the whole transport system;
- Addressing traffic congestion;
- Improving social outcomes for the ACT community;
- Minimising the level of transport emissions; and
- Providing the ACT community with better transport options.

Light Rail

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to negotiate with the Commonwealth on funding models for a light rail system for the future. An independent business case has been commissioned as a necessary first phase.

Sustainable transport targets

The ACT Labor Government set out targets for sustainable transport in our *Sustainable Transport Plan*. These targets aim to increase the percentage of trips to work by walking, cycling and public transport. Our targets

MODE	2001	2011	2026
Walking	4.1%	6%	7%
Cycling	2.3%	5%	7%
Public Transport	6.7%	9%	16%
Total	13.1%	20%	30%

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will reaffirm its commitment to these targets and provide practical interventions to make it easier for Canberrans to walk, cycle, or take public transport to work.

More improvements to ACTION

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will provide an additional \$10.3 million to enhance the ACTION bus network, which will include:

- Investing \$7.46 million to increase the frequency of bus services in high-demand suburbs;
- Introducing a free Tourist Route between the major attractions in Parliamentary Triangle, Campbell and City Centre at a cost of \$900,000;
- Introducing a lunch-time service circling the Parliamentary Triangle, Campbell and Civic to allow workers in those areas to conduct business in Civic at lunch-time, at a cost of \$1.5 million; and
- Investing \$140,000 in additional bus shelters and seats at bus stops.

ACT Labor will also continue to explore the introduction of a new ticketing system based on SmartCard technology at a cost of \$8 million.

Planning for transport infrastructure

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to identify gaps in Canberra's transport infrastructure and services and invest where needed to make Canberra a more accessible city for all.

We will undertake detailed transport modelling to determine the factors that influence travel choice in the ACT.

We will enhance our transport research and evaluation capabilities, improve our transport policy frameworks, take advantage of new vehicle technologies, and actively engage the Commonwealth in the identification of strategic major transport infrastructure projects.

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will also plan for an integrated transport future by engaging more actively with the Commonwealth, other states and territories, and infrastructure providers to investigate and promote better connectivity between Canberra and the national transport network.

Enhancing taxi services

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will work cooperatively with the taxi industry and the airport to introduce a new High Occupancy Taxi Service between the airport, Barton and Civic and to address broader issues in the industry.

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue the higher fares for High Occupancy Taxis, when those taxis carry eight or more passengers.

Canberra's road infrastructure

Although ACT Labor will continue to work towards greater sustainable use of public transport, road improvements and new roads will remain a priority to ensure that motorists are able to move freely around the Territory.

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will complete the duplication of the Gungahlin Drive Extension and Tharwa Drive, complete road works along Pialligo Avenue and commence the duplication of the Majura Parkway.

In addition, a re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue the road works outlined in the 2008/09 Budget, namely:

- \$15 million to Upgrade the airport roads stage 2 and Horse Park Drive extension;
- \$8.5 million to upgrade Lanyon Drive and Kings Highway realignment;
- Supporting the Commonwealth to upgrade Coranderrk Street / Parkes Way and Morshead Drive / Russell Drive intersections;
- \$11 million build the Molonglo Arterial Road (\$11 million);
- Complete forward design for key roads to build transport links from new and future Gungahlin suburbs (\$2.85 million);
- Building new bus lanes and bus priority measures (\$1.307 million); and
- Complete the duplication of GDE and conduct forward planning for Majura Parkway and Parkes Way (\$83 million).

Facilities for cyclists and pedestrians

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will ensure that cycling and walking networks are included in all urban renewal and new green-fields development sites.

Under our Sustainable Transport Initiatives program we will invest \$2.6 million over the next term of Government to improve cycle and footpaths across Canberra, including improving signage and road-markings for cycle paths. A re-elected ACT Labor Government will also look at other priorities within the Improving Urban Amenities Fund for further improvements to these important public facilities.

In addition, a re-elected ACT Labor Government will prioritise the inclusion of cycle paths in all newly constructed roads.

Links with our new infrastructure framework

Underpinning the massive infrastructure investments made by the ACT Labor Government is our integrated Infrastructure Plan which was refreshed in 2008.

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to use this Plan as a means of identifying key infrastructure priorities, in the areas of roads and transport, education and training, health, water, electricity and other energy.

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will also ensure that the community has input into the determination of these priorities and will establish an Infrastructure Advisory Group to seek the input of business and community leaders to provide further guidance on the ACT's highest infrastructure priorities.