Transport Professionals Association

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Belinda Stewart
A/Regional Director
Department of Transport and Main Roads
South Coast Region

By email: belinda.l.stewart@tmr.qld.gov.au

Dear Belinda,

Gold Coast Transport Plan and opportunities for technical collaboration

On behalf of Transport Professionals Association (TPA), we would welcome the opportunity to explore how our professional community could support the implementation of the Gold Coast Transport Plan.

We greatly appreciate the longstanding support of the Department as an organisational member of TPA since 2010, and Major Branch Partner of the Queensland branch over a number of years. More recently, we were delighted to gather 600 transport professionals in Brisbane for the National Transport Conference, with the Department as the Government Sponsor.

We congratulate the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) and its delivery partners on the successful delivery of Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3. Our recent TPA Gold Coast light rail study tour provided a valuable opportunity to understand the project's achievements and delivery experience. We particularly thank Gavin Massingham, Lee Flueckiger and the wider team for their time, insights and support.

With the Gold Coast expected to reach around one million residents by 2046, substantial public and private investment underway, and preparations for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, timely coordination of transport, land use and infrastructure delivery is increasingly important. Decisions made now about network connections, project scope and sequencing will shape the city's accessibility and liveability for decades.

As an independent professional association, TPA brings together practitioners across transport planning, engineering, policy, research and delivery. Our Gold Coast professional community, supported by the Queensland Branch and national networks, offers local knowledge and experience from comparable projects across Australia.

Our offer is grounded in TPA's Policy and Principles Platform (August 2025), particularly its principles supporting integrated transport and land use planning, long-term evidence-based decision-making, collaborative research and innovation, and inclusive professional engagement. We would welcome the opportunity to put these principles into practice through focused technical exchanges relevant to TMR's priorities.

Potential contributions include discussions on network integration and interchange access; walking and cycling connections; coordination between growth and infrastructure delivery; and lessons from comparable transport projects. The attached outline provides examples of how these exchanges could assist implementation.

We would welcome an introductory meeting at an early opportunity to understand where TPA's contribution would be most useful and agree an initial topic for discussion. This could provide a practical starting point for ongoing engagement through periodic technical roundtables, practitioner forums or knowledge-sharing activities, with scope and participation agreed together.

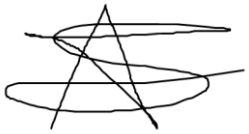
For follow up discussions, your team can contact committee member Lau Chean-Piau in the first instance, at Lau@2ehconsulting.com.

We look forward to building on the constructive engagement demonstrated through the recent study tour and contributing to a safe, accessible and connected transport future for the Gold Coast.

Kind Regards



Kirsty Kelly
Chief Executive Officer



Anabelle Spinoulas
President, Gold Coast Sub-branch

Attachment — Gold Coast Transport Plan: Opportunities for technical collaboration

TPA could convene focused exchanges between TMR and relevant practitioners to share experience, explore implementation challenges and identify practical opportunities. Initial activities would be agreed with TMR and matched to available member expertise and capacity.

Network integration and interchange access
Technical roundtables could bring together experience in rail, light rail, bus services, walking and cycling to explore connections between modes and access to key destinations.
Topics could include interchange design, connecting services, accessible passenger journeys and walking and cycling links to stations and stops. These discussions could help identify opportunities to improve the wider network's convenience and usefulness.

Walking and cycling network connections
TPA could contribute independent professional and local perspectives on walking and cycling priorities, including alignment with existing network planning and opportunities to address missing connections. Discussions could explore how the distinct needs of people walking and cycling are explicitly recognised within integrated transport projects, including dedicated facilities, safe crossings and connections to public transport, centres and growth areas. This could support coordinated delivery of continuous, safe and accessible networks.

Urban growth, land use and infrastructure sequencing
Practitioner forums could explore how transport investment and service planning align with housing, employment and changing travel demand.
Topics could include project sequencing, coordination between state and local infrastructure, and using data and modelling to inform decisions. Sharing experience across planning and delivery disciplines could help identify dependencies and opportunities for earlier coordination.

Delivery lessons and professional knowledge sharing
TPA could facilitate exchanges on lessons from comparable projects, including accessibility, customer outcomes, construction impacts and the transition into operation.
Drawing on local, interstate, and research experience could support practical learning and strengthen connections among those planning, designing, and delivering the Gold Coast's transport network.

A practical starting point
An introductory meeting could identify one priority topic for an initial technical roundtable, nominate contacts and agree the intended outcome. That first activity's usefulness could then inform the format and frequency of further engagement.
These opportunities reflect TPA's Policy and Principles Platform through integrated planning, evidence-based decisions, collaboration, safety and professional capability development.