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Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities
Committee Secretariat
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA
ACT 2600

Dear Inquiry Secretary

Supplementary Submission by the City of Port Phillip to the Inquiry on the Role of Transport Connectivity on Stimulating Development and Economic Activity

Thank you for the opportunity to present evidence to the Inquiry on 11 March 2016. As you may be aware, the Inquiry was inquorate for the later part of our presentation, and this supplementary submission is to ensure that the Inquiry is able to consider the key points from our private discussion.

I would like to reiterate the City of Port Phillip's willingness to work collaboratively with the Australian Government towards using value capture to expedite the delivery of the vital infrastructure that our growing community needs. We see a strong role for local government, as the key conduit and champion for our local community, in planning and delivering infrastructure

We would like to reiterate the opportunity for all three levels of government to play to each of our strengths. Fishermans Bend, for example, has had Victorian and local government involved but there has not been any involvement from the Australian Government to date. In terms of the role of councils it is very much that we are the frontline of the community in relation to the community needs and services into perpetuity.

We also note in relation to Fishermans Bend, it will play a significant role in the Victorian economy and in the knowledge sector of the central city. There are huge benefits to be realised in terms of economic productivity for the state by having the growth of the knowledge sector in Melbourne. It could also have a big contribution to the Australian economy as it changes to a service and knowledge based economy.

In relation to the opportunities at all three layers of government, all receive financial benefits in different ways from land use zoning and transport connections. It would be highly beneficial to define the benefit streams and collecting the revenue associated with them, and then all levels of government could contribute to get the best collective outcome.

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There needs to be a common, nationally led approach to economic cost-benefit analysis of projects and business cases as the investment logic for any layer of government to fund infrastructure. At the moment, value capture is not seen as a core benefit stream. It is classified as wider economic benefits, or it is seen not to be part of our core thinking. We believe that a fundamental shift in thinking is required about value in land use and transport being intrinsically the same thing, and that is where value capture comes from.

Council cannot do this alone and there is a significant role for the federal government to provide a consistent framework that all states and local councils to work within.

We look forward to further opportunities to engage constructively with you on this important issue. Please feel free to contact Brett Walters, Manager Sustainability and Transport on 9209 6364 if you wish to discuss any aspect of our submission.

Yours sincerely



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