



# Blyth Street tram terminus a top priority for route 96 upgrade

By BY CHRIS HINGSTON chingston@fairfaxmedia.com Sept. 3, 2012, 12:58 a.m.



ALL ABOARD: The 96 tram route is set for an upgrade

FIXING Brunswick's Blyth Street tram terminus has been named a "clear priority" of the 96 route upgrade.

But Brunswick residents don't want tram stops consolidated in the middle of blocks and want better cyclist safety, a forum has been told.

Public Transport Victoria (PTV), Yarra Trams and VicRoads held the forum for residents about the 96 tram line upgrade.

The state government is waiting for 50 new low-floor trams, due in July 2013 – they were originally expected this year – and scheduled to be operating on the 96 soon after. A requirement of the upgrade is to build level access stops along the 14km route.

PTV spokeswoman Melanie Starr said fixing the Blyth Street terminus was a "clear priority". She said the single track at the terminus restricted operations, particularly at peak hours.

She said Brunswick residents had asked how new residential developments would be included in the route upgrade.

A new tram stop has already been mooted for outside the proposed East Brunswick Village – a major Nicholson Street development near the corner of Albert Street.

Moreland City South Ward councillor Jo Connellan said the upgrade could help revitalise the northern end of Nicholson Street. She said the traffic around the Blyth Street stop was "chaotic" and supported work to fix congestion at the terminus.

Public Transport Users Association president Daniel Bowen said providing traffic light priority along the route was critical.

"It should be a no-brainer that a tram with up to 200 people on board should have priority over cars carrying an average of 1.2 people each," he said. He said tram stops should be maintained at intersections to ensure connectivity to nearby bus stops.

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