

FACT SHEET: DONCASTER AREA RAPID TRANSIT (DART)



In the 2008 Victorian Transport Plan, the Victorian Government allocated \$360 million to a comprehensive upgrade of bus services in the Manningham area.

Four routes with SmartBus service levels will be introduced to complement existing and planned SmartBus services that will run through the region (see map overleaf). For Manningham residents, this will provide a network of high frequency routes that travel both east-west and north-south through the municipality.

What will DART provide?

The proposed routes are highlighted in the map overleaf – Routes 301, 304, 307 and 319*.

The service span of these routes will improve to 19 hours on weekdays, 18 hours on Saturdays and 14 hours Sundays.

Weekday bus services will double on these routes, with operating hours extended to as early as 5am and as late as midnight.

The frequency of services will be 7-10 minutes during peak periods.

A range of bus priority measures will deliver average travel time savings of more than 10% in peak periods.

More than 250 bus stops will be upgraded to SmartBus standards.

* Note that some routes may be slightly altered from current configuration to improve travel times and overall service.

What is the SmartBus concept?

SmartBus is a premium bus service that has been designed to complement Melbourne's radial train and tram network, by providing 'cross-town' connections along major arterial roads to train stations, tram lines, schools, universities, hospitals, shopping centres and other activity centres.

SmartBus services run more often and for longer hours than most bus services. They are also more reliable and have faster journey times because of a combination of road priority and smart technology.

What makes SmartBus services more reliable?

SmartBus routes undergo 'bus-friendly' roadwork to improve the way buses move in and out of traffic. Bus lanes are created or improved in high-delay locations and improvements are made to bus stops to ensure that buses have easier and safer access to passengers.

In some areas, SmartBus buses have the ability to request traffic light priority during their journey.

SmartBus services run 'direct' and sometimes 'limited stop' along major arterial roads – making journey times shorter and journeys more direct for passengers.

What makes SmartBus smarter?

SmartBus buses have the ability to communicate with their depot during a journey, which allows them to provide real-time travel information to passengers at selected high-use bus stops.

Bus-train interchanges also have real-time information on SmartBus and train arrival times, making journey transitions smoother.

Unlike most bus stops, all SmartBus stops provide local area maps and stop specific timetables.

What makes SmartBus safer?

Bus stops along SmartBus routes are safer, more accessible and are highly visible because they have been designed to the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) standards.

Low-floor buses are used on SmartBus routes. These buses are able to 'meet' the bus stop at the same level and eliminate a 'step' to board the bus.



