

Planning First: Land Use is Shaping Adelaide's Future Light Rail Network

Presenters: Brad McCormack (InfraPlan), Benjamin Russ (InfraPlan)

Background

In 2015 the South Australian Government proposed an expanded light rail network across inner and middle Adelaide in the Integrated Transport and Land Use Plan. In 2016, the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure commissioned a \$4million Business Case for the six new light rail spurs, collectively named 'AdeLINK'. InfraPlan, were engaged as Project Managers on behalf of the State for this once in a generation scale of work. The planning driven journey of the Business Case (due for completion in December 2017), and the land use scenarios that underpin it are the focus of this presentation.

Method

Prior to undertaking the detailed elements of the Business Case, alignment of the new spurs required comprehensive merit assessment driven by land use principles. We responded to this by developing a Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA), with input from state and local governments.

MCA decision making has become increasingly critical for significant investment projects, particularly where there is an expectation for Federal funding contributions. For infrastructure or transport projects, they are commonly weighted towards operational and transport outcomes. However, our team challenged this by recognising the city-shaping impact of light rail projects around the and that the most significant benefits would be unlocked through urban planning and development outcomes.

Our MCA comprised 5 overarching themes, 19 criteria and 43 measures that would define a preferred network of highest merit. The notable theme in this context was 'Place-making and a vibrant city', which was defined to support the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide vision for infill and corridor development, and main streets, an environment that is potentially dynamic and adaptable to be 'living spaces'. Of the 43 measures, 18 were directly related to urban planning, land use and development potential.

Conclusion

This presentation will journey through our planning-led processes to arrive at the Business Case, as well as the cultural and institutional change required to integrate better outcomes for the AdeLINK light rail network.