



Speech by

Hon. STEVE BREDHAUER

MEMBER FOR COOK

Hansard 5 December 2001

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

International Association of Public Transport

Hon. S. D. BREDHAUER (Cook—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads) (10.04 a.m.), by leave: I am pleased to advise the House that Brisbane has won the right to host a major Asia-Pacific public transport conference in 2004. The Fourth Asia-Pacific Congress of the International Association of Public Transport, UITP, will be hosted by Queensland Transport. The purpose of the congress is to foster the education and development of public transport matters.

Public transport is playing a far more important role in meeting the challenges of tomorrow's society, particularly if we are to tackle the problems of congestion, indiscriminate car use and rising emissions. More than 600 delegates from around the world are expected to attend the congress and generate well over \$1 million in economic benefits for Queensland. It will give Queensland a better opportunity to showcase our infrastructure and to attract international experts to Australia to share their knowledge and expertise with us on public transport matters and to impart our knowledge to them.

Members attending the third Asia-Pacific assembly in Kuala Lumpur voted overwhelmingly in favour of Brisbane as the location of the fourth congress. The third congress is to be held in Shanghai in 2002. Representatives of Queensland Transport worked hard to win the conference. Presentations were made in London in May 2001 and in Kuala Lumpur in October 2001. I thank the Brisbane Convention and Visitors Bureau, which assisted with the presentations to UITP executives and delegates.

The congress will highlight Brisbane's state-of-the-art busways, Citytrain network and world-class public transport services. UITP Secretary General, Mr Hans Rat, recently visited Brisbane and was most impressed with the quality and integration of the South East Busway into the urban fabric. He has since been extolling its virtues around the world.

Core busway services have experienced a 40 per cent growth in patronage in the first six months. The South East Busway has shown that if a government provides good public transport services and infrastructure then people will choose them over private transport. Work is under way with the Australia-New Zealand chapter of UITP to plan the program and stage an accompanying Citytransit exhibition featuring the latest in bus technology and design.
