



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025**

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE  
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: N/A Minister Steel offered to provide the information

Addressed to: N/A

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [Page 39]

In relation to: Modelling of passenger movements on Commonwealth Bridge comparing light rail to a buslane.

Hearing Date: 05/08/2024

QTON lodgement date: 05/08/2024

Answer Due Date: 08/09/2024

**MS ORR:** You picked up, I think you mentioned in the viability of service lines on Commonwealth Bridge. Did you want to elaborate on that?

**Mr Steel:** Well, we have been in discussion with the NCA for some time about their bridge strengthening work which is due to get underway in the next few years and the relationship and interface with the light rail project. Light rail will be built in an inset bridge within the existing two bridges, in between the existing two spans of Commonwealth Avenue Bridge.

Of course, that provides a dedicated corridor for light, which actually enables us to deliver increased capacity for the overall transport network, and we actually have some specific figures around that, if the team have them on hand.

**Mr Doctor:** Not to hand, minister.

**Ms Geraghty:** Happy to take it on notice.

**Mr Steel:** It is thousands of more movements an hour—we can provide the specific numbers—than if you had a bus running on Commonwealth Avenue, and of course, if there was a busway, that would limit traffic movement across that corridor, which is the major bottleneck to get into the city from the south side. You cannot get over Lake Burley Griffin any other way directly through the middle of the city other than going on Commonwealth Avenue Bridge, and so we have always been focused on delivering extra transport capacity. A busway, of course, would remove capacity on that network, potentially, compared to light rail.

**Mr Chris Steel MLA:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

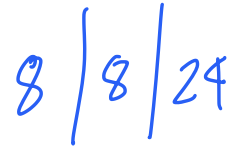
Light rail vehicles are configured to carry a maximum of 207 passengers with peak light rail services operating at five-minute intervals. An inset bridge, across the existing bridge spans, dedicated to light rail creates a new prioritised corridor providing overall capacity of up to approximately 2,400 people per hour in each direction (and nearly 5,000 total) across the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date:



By the Minister for Transport, Chris Steel MLA