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## NORTH EAST TRANSPORT CONNECTIONS REVS UP ACROSS THE REGION

A new Project Team is gearing up to take on transport challenges across the region.

The North East Transport Connections Project (NTCP) has been successfully operating in the region since 2007 and is one of 34 transport projects funded throughout Victoria by the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD).

Recently received phase three funding will enable the project to refocus activities toward working with local communities to generate new ways to improve access to employment, learning, health and social opportunities.

“In the context of Transport Connections, transport is more than simply a bus or train”, said Helen Vey, Project Manager. “Transport is the enabler for those who are transport disadvantaged to access services and opportunities. Transport does not have to be one way, it is also about bringing services and opportunities to people”.

NTCP is a partnership project between Alpine, Indigo, Towong, Wodonga and Wangaratta Local Governments, Community Accessibility, Alpine Health and Ovens & King Community Health.

Transport Connections objectives are to:

- Develop innovative transport and non-transport options to support access, excluding public transport as a response;
- Generate more efficient use of existing transport and community resources;
- Establish ongoing local partnerships to deliver transport and accessibility outcomes; and
- Foster ongoing community participation and inclusion in decision-making to improve social and economic inclusion.

The project will receive \$692,182 over the next three years.

“NTCP provides a great opportunity for local groups to address their transport issues”, said Elaine Hill, Manager Community Accessibility, Wodonga.

To get the ball rolling NTCP will soon release information about its small grants program which will enable local community groups to access seed funds of up to \$1,000 to address their local transport needs.

Regular Transport Forums will also take place across the region, with the first scheduled to take place in Tallangatta on 21 July.

For more information on NTCP please call 02 6049 2150.