

# Project Newsletter

June 2016

## Major construction is underway on the Gateway Upgrade North project

Work has begun on the upgrade to the Gateway Motorway between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge.

The contractor appointed to design and construct the project, Lend Lease Engineering Pty Ltd, has started activities to upgrade bridges at Sandgate Road and Bicentennial Road, and construct a new interchange at Nudgee. Works are also underway to upgrade the Deagon Deviation, with the new southbound alignment being built.

Savings delivered through the tender process have also seen key improvements added to the project. Road pavement and safety improvements between Bracken Ridge and Bald Hills will now be included as part of the project. This work will see new guardrail, roadside safety features, variable message and speed limit signs, and upgraded lighting to enhance motorists' safety.

The \$1.143 billion project is jointly funded by the Australian Government (\$914.18 million) and Queensland Government (\$228.54 million) on a 80:20 split. The upgrade is being delivered by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, which has engaged Transurban Queensland to assist in managing the delivery of the major works package.



### About the project:

- ▶ the Gateway Upgrade North project is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments
- ▶ involves upgrading the Gateway Motorway to six lanes between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge
- ▶ will widen the Deagon Deviation to provide two lanes in each direction between Depot Road and Bracken Ridge Road
- ▶ includes the construction of a new, off-road shared pedestrian and cycle path between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge
- ▶ will enhance safety, ease congestion and improve freight movements on the national network
- ▶ install Intelligent Transport Systems such as variable message signs, CCTV cameras and variable speed signs.

### Visitor Information Centre now open

The community has been invited to learn more about the Gateway Upgrade North, with the opening of the project's Visitor Information Centre in Deagon.

The centre offers an informative walk through the project benefits and a look back at the Gateway's history. There are videos of the Gateway Bridge construction from the 1980s, information panels about construction, environment, sustainability and health and safety on site, a fly-through of the upgrade's design and a direct link to the project hotline.

Community members can drop in from Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm at the Deagon Depot, 7 Depot Road, Deagon.



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# Gateway Upgrade North project revised design



## Deagon Deviation

Site establishment is underway ahead of construction for the new alignment of the southbound Deagon Deviation.

Once the new southbound lanes are completed in late 2016, work will start on building the northbound carriageway of the Deagon Deviation.



## Sandgate Road bridges

Major works have started to upgrade the southbound bridge at Sandgate Road. These works will be completed in several stages. Stage one involves widening the existing two-lane southbound bridge to three lanes. Piling activities have started to install new bridge foundations. Over the coming months, the project team will install new bridge deck units to widen the footprint of the bridge.

Once work on the southbound bridge is complete, traffic in both directions will be temporarily diverted onto the upgraded southbound bridge to allow for the demolition of the existing northbound bridge and construction of a new bridge in its place. The southbound bridge will be wide enough to accommodate this temporary traffic arrangement and a speed of 80km/h will be maintained during peak hours.

This diversion is expected to occur in late 2016 and be in place for approximately 12 months. Two lanes of traffic in each direction will be maintained in peak hours during these works.

### Impacts to North Boondall train station car park

Preliminary works at the North Boondall train station are complete and the new permanent car park on Peacock Street is now open to commuters.

Construction of the new northbound bridge over Sandgate Road and the Shorncliffe rail line requires significant works in the vicinity of the North Boondall train station car park. The project team is working closely with Translink to minimise the impacts to commuters.

A car park is also being built at the Boondall train station that will help to offset the temporary loss of commuter parking at North Boondall. Once the project is completed, the affected car parks at North Boondall will be reinstated, providing a long-term increase in the overall number of car parks available.

The project team will provide early notification to train commuters prior to any car parking changes.

## Bicentennial Road interchange

The Bicentennial Road interchange is being upgraded, with major works underway to widen the four bridges at this location.

Piling works have begun for the two northbound bridges and bridge works will continue throughout 2016. Two lanes of traffic in each direction will be maintained in peak hours during these works.

## Noise barriers

The project team has carried out noise monitoring to develop a noise model, which predicts future noise levels and the need for new or upgraded noise barriers. The noise model has identified those locations, between Nudgee and the Deagon Deviation, where new or upgraded noise barriers are required and these will be constructed as part of the project.

The location of noise barriers is determined in line with the road traffic noise criteria set by the department. If new or upgraded noise barriers are required in the vicinity of your property, you will be contacted by the project team.



## Energex works

To enable the widening of the motorway, Energex is replacing existing high voltage towers next to the motorway between Nudgee Road and Nundah Creek.

New 30-metre power poles were installed earlier this year to replace the existing towers and Energex has begun to transfer power to these new poles. The existing towers are being removed to allow for the construction of the additional lanes in this section of the motorway.

This work will be completed in June 2016, weather and construction conditions permitting. Works will be completed at night, and motorists are encouraged to be patient and expect traffic delays and short-term road closures.

## Nudgee Road interchange

Preparatory works have begun to construct the new Nudgee Road interchange, to the north of the existing interchange. Earthworks are being undertaken on both sides of the motorway to create the new Nudgee Road alignment and on and off-ramps for the interchange.

Works to build the bridge structure over the motorway will commence in late 2016 and will continue throughout 2017. The relocation of this interchange is an important feature of the project. It will provide increased capacity for future growth, as well as safer access to the motorway and for traffic connecting to the local road network.

## What's next

Over the coming months, the project team will carry out a range of important works, including:

- ▶ site establishment at several points along the motorway
- ▶ piling to create foundations for new and upgraded bridge structures
- ▶ initial construction of the expanded motorway between the existing north and southbound lanes
- ▶ rehabilitation of the Gateway Motorway between Bracken Ridge and the Wyampa Road overpass, near the Bruce Highway, including pavement and safety improvements.

These works are critical to improve safety outcomes and increase capacity on the motorway.

# Sandgate Road on-ramp closure to improve motorist safety



The Gateway Motorway is part of the national highway and a critical link in the transport network. As such, any upgrades must be done to the highest standard of quality and safety.

To improve safety on the motorway, the Sandgate Road northbound on-ramp will close in 2017. The closure of the on-ramp is one of a number of traffic changes being implemented to improve safety and efficiency of the motorway in this area.

Traffic and safety investigations have confirmed that there are a high number of incidents on this section of the motorway, largely due to unsafe weaving and merging. This is caused by:

- ▶ the on and off-ramps to the motorway at Sandgate Road and Depot Road being too close together to meet current standards
- ▶ congestion on the Gateway Motorway, as many motorists are accessing the motorway at the Sandgate Road on-ramp, often for short journeys.

The Gateway Upgrade North will put the right traffic on the right roads. The project will make critical improvements to the safety and efficiency of the motorway by:

- ▶ **closing the northbound Sandgate Road on-ramp** to eliminate weaving and avoid the impact of local traffic using the motorway for short local journeys.
- ▶ **providing a new two-lane Deagon Deviation northbound**, separate to the motorway, delivering a dedicated local arterial road connection from Sandgate Road to Redcliffe. This means that, when complete, motorists will be able to travel along Sandgate Road and continue onto the Deagon Deviation at Depot Road to make their way to Redcliffe without needing to use the motorway. While traffic will increase on Braun Street northbound in the afternoon, traffic volumes are expected to be similar to southbound traffic during the morning peak.
- ▶ **providing a new, safer northbound off-ramp and overpass to the Deagon Deviation** before the Depot Road off-ramp to remove traffic from the motorway earlier and avoid weaving.
- ▶ **upgrading Depot Road** between the Gateway Motorway northbound on-ramp and Braun Street, to cater for any additional traffic and improve safety.

These improvements will reduce congestion on the motorway and improve safety and efficiency on the network. The closure of the Sandgate Road northbound on-ramp is another important measure to improve safety for all road users.



## Travelling north from Sandgate Road

- ▶ **Sandgate Road to Gateway Motorway/Bruce Highway:** access via the Depot Road on-ramp (instead of the current Sandgate Road northbound on-ramp, which will be closed)
- ▶ **Sandgate Road to Redcliffe:** continue onto the Deagon Deviation via the upgraded Depot Road/Braun Street intersection to access Redcliffe without needing to use the motorway (instead of the current Sandgate Road northbound on-ramp, which will be closed)

## Part of the bigger plan

In 2014, the department completed construction of 2.5km of additional lane on the motorway between Deagon and Bracken Ridge, which included minor modifications to the Sandgate Road on-ramp. This provided improvements to the road network in this area until the full motorway upgrade could be funded.

These improvements, including those made to the on-ramp, were always intended to be part of the Gateway Upgrade North design. The additional lane has been incorporated into the final design and, while the Sandgate Road on-ramp will close to traffic in 2017, it will be integrated into the shared user path for cyclists and pedestrians.

## Your questions answered

### Why does the on-ramp need to close?

The multiple ramps between Sandgate Road and Bracken Ridge Road are too close together, causing unsafe weaving and merging. In addition to this, local traffic is using the motorway for short trips. These issues have caused congestion and contributed to a higher than average occurrence of incidents on this section of the motorway. The upgrade and closure of the ramp will reduce congestion and improve safety and efficiency.

### When will the on-ramp close?

The on-ramp will close once the required upgrades have been made to provide northbound access to Redcliffe via the Braun Street/Depot Road intersection and the Deagon Deviation. The detailed timing of the ramp closure will be communicated to motorists once it is confirmed.

### How will northbound traffic access the motorway?

Once the on-ramp is closed, traffic travelling north from Sandgate Road to the Gateway Motorway and Bruce Highway will access the motorway via the Depot Road on-ramp. However, as there will be less congestion on the motorway, many motorists will adjust their travel patterns and enter the motorway at different points, including the on-ramps at Nudgee, Toombul Road and Bicentennial Road.

### How do I get to Redcliffe from Sandgate Road?

With the new two-lane Deagon Deviation northbound, motorists travelling north on Sandgate Road will continue straight ahead through the Depot Road intersection onto the Deagon Deviation, without needing to use the motorway.

## Local wildlife to benefit from motorway crossings

The Gateway Upgrade North project team is committed to positive environmental outcomes throughout the design and construction of the project. Six new fauna crossings have been included in the project's design at key locations along the corridor to allow for local wildlife such as the native squirrel glider to cross the motorway safely.

The squirrel glider, a close relative of the more well-known sugar glider, is a small native Australian marsupial that is named for its fluffy tail. They are larger than the sugar glider and distinguished by their longer and more pointed head.

Squirrel gliders are currently common in Queensland but are considered a significant species for conservation and management in the Brisbane area. They live in a leaf nest within a tree hollow 'den' and may have multiple dens within their home range.

Gliders are known for their unique ability to glide between trees using membranes between their front and back legs. They are capable of gliding up to approximately 80 metres between trees, where tree heights allow.

Squirrel gliders are found on both sides of the Gateway Motorway, with populations observed in both the Boondall and Deagon Wetlands, among other local areas with suitable habitat.

The project's fauna crossings include both rope bridges and fauna underpasses spanning the width of the motorway, to connect vegetation between Boondall Wetlands and the Brisbane Entertainment Centre complex, and between the Deagon Wetlands and remnant patches of vegetation.

Both the underpasses and overhead rope bridges will provide important habitat connectivity, with the overhead crossings designed specifically for squirrel gliders. Habitat connectivity is key to a species' survival as it allows greater access to resources including food and shelter, and to other individuals, which increases the gene pool and breeding opportunity.

Fauna fencing will also be installed to direct animals to the fauna crossing locations and to reduce the likelihood of them accessing the motorway. Fauna crossings are a further measure being used to ensure the best possible outcomes for local wildlife.



## Project timeline



## Contact details

The project team is committed to working with the community to better understand your views and ensure the successful delivery of the Gateway Upgrade North project.

**You can contact the project team via:**

✉ [contactus@gatewayupgradenorth.com.au](mailto:contactus@gatewayupgradenorth.com.au)

☎ 1800 607 755 (freecall)

🌐 [www.gatewayupgradenorth.com.au](http://www.gatewayupgradenorth.com.au)

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