

Project update

Samford Road and Wardell Street intersection upgrade



The Queensland Government recently announced funding to widen the intersection of Samford Road and Wardell Street in Enoggera.

Community consultation on the Department of Transport and Main Roads concept plan began on 21 July 2011 and will run until 2 September 2011.

The department has been meeting with local property and business owners and receiving feedback by feedback forms, email and online. The department would like to thank the community for the wide range of opinions, questions and suggestions received so far.

Feedback received will be considered as part of the remaining planning stages of the project and the development of a preferred upgrade option.

Regular project updates will be available throughout the next phases of planning and will include answers to your most frequently asked questions.

How much time will I save on my journey through the intersection?

This will vary depending on the time of day and the direction of travel. However, early modelling results show that the average delay at the intersection could be reduced by up to 70%.

What is the long-term solution for this intersection?

Other longer term infrastructure improvements identified in the 2009 Western Brisbane Transport Network Strategy include bus and rail solutions and an underground motorway between Toowong and Everton Park, taking traffic away from this intersection.

Why a surface-level solution?

A surface level solution was considered the best option, rather than other solutions such as a flyover, because it:

- is consistent with long-term planning
- provides significant time savings – up to 70% – at relatively low cost
- limits the number of resumptions on residential and commercial properties
- provides value-for-money – an overpass would be significantly more expensive than a surface level solution
- will be constructed in a shorter timeframe
- will not cause increased noise and visual pollution – eg. an overpass would be over six metres high, with street lights on top
- will not affect the heritage-listed Enoggera Memorial Hall
- increases safety on adjacent sections of Samford Road by reducing rat running
- creates a safer environment all round for the community by keeping a ground level intersection with safety aspects such as pedestrian crossings at traffic lights.

Is this work definitely going to happen?

Yes. However, the final form of the upgrade is yet to be established with public consultation and ongoing technical investigations to refine the concept plan.

Funding was secured in this year's State Budget. Stage 1 will be completed this year, and Stage 2 anticipated to be completed by 2014/15.

Banning the right turn from Wardell Street into Samford Road

The possibility of removing the right turn arrow and right turn lane and thereby banning the right turn from southern Wardell Street into eastern Samford Road is being investigated as an option to improve traffic flow through the intersection.

This is because the volume of traffic making this turn is relatively low and analysis shows that banning it would have a major effect in shortening waiting times at the intersection, particularly during peak periods.

However, as these vehicles would need to divert to other routes, the department is encouraging the community to provide feedback on this option.

What does the concept plan offer cyclists?

The concept plan (which can be seen in full at www.tmr.qld.gov.au) shows proposed concrete pathways on the northern side of Samford Road which are designated for shared pedestrian and cycle usage. There are no on-road cycle paths shown on the concept plan.

Further technical investigations into provisions for cyclists are continuing.

Are the bus stops on Samford Road or Wardell Street being relocated?

The department is consulting with TransLink about how buses will travel through the intersection and whether for safety reasons, any bus stops may need to be moved a small distance.

Requests for street closures

Interest has been expressed from residents, particularly from Malcolm Street, Ardentallen Road and Douglas Street, to restrict access to their street through the creation of a cul-de-sac or by strategically placed islands.

All comments are being considered by the department, including input from emergency services and local business owners in the vicinity.

How to get involved

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is seeking your feedback on the concept plan. Your involvement will help shape the development of the upgrade proposal through the next stages of planning.

- Visit the Samford Road and Wardell Street intersection planning study website at www.tmr.qld.gov.au and search for 'Samford Wardell'. Project information and an online feedback form will be available.
- Visit the project team at one of the staffed displays (see the website for more details).
- Email your feedback to samford.wardell@tmr.qld.gov.au.
- Call the community enquiry line on 1800 045 348. (*Freecall from anywhere in Australia, call charges may apply for calls from mobile phones and payphones.*)

The first round of community consultation for the Samford Road and Wardell Street intersection project closes on Friday 2 September, 2011. Don't miss your chance to provide feedback on the concept plan.