

# Project Newsletter

December 2016

## First major traffic switch

The first major traffic switch as part of the Gateway Upgrade North project will be implemented this month with the temporary realignment of southbound traffic between Sandgate Road and Bicentennial Road.



Preparing for the traffic switch at the Bicentennial Road interchange (looking north west)

This traffic switch represents a major milestone for the project. Once implemented, motorists driving southbound on the Gateway Motorway will notice they have been realigned onto 2.6km of newly constructed pavement and the widened northbound bridges at the Bicentennial Road interchange.

The southbound on-ramp and off-ramp at Bicentennial Road have also been upgraded with traffic set to travel on longer, wider ramps.

Twelve months of work have gone into preparing for this traffic switch. It enables the project team to carry out permanent widening works on the Gateway Motorway southbound lanes including widening of the southbound bridges over the Bicentennial Road interchange. This work is part of upgrading the motorway to six lanes between Nudgee and Deagon.

Overall, the project is progressing well with more than 1 million hours worked and more than 3,200 people inducted on the project so far. The \$1.143 billion project is expected to support more than 1,000 direct jobs over the life of the upgrade.

Construction activities will continue to ramp up in the coming months as the project enters its second year. These works are critical to improving safety outcomes and increasing capacity on the motorway when the project is completed in late 2018.

### Fast facts

The project's first traffic switch involved the installation of:

- ▶ 4,000m<sup>3</sup> of asphalt
- ▶ 12km of temporary barriers
- ▶ 95 temporary road lights
- ▶ 21 permanent road lights
- ▶ 3km of electrical and communication conduits
- ▶ 3 closed circuit cameras
- ▶ 820m of permanent guardrail
- ▶ 750m of new drainage
- ▶ 1.6km of temporary pedestrian and cycle path.

### About the project:

- ▶ involves upgrading the Gateway Motorway to six lanes between Nudgee and Deagon
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ the \$1.143 billion Gateway Upgrade North project is jointly funded by the Australian Government (\$914.18 million) and Queensland Government (\$228.54 million) on a 80:20 split
- ▶ the Department of Transport and Main Roads has engaged Transurban Queensland to assist in managing the delivery of the major works package.



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*Installation of concrete bridge beams to widen the motorway bridges over Bicentennial Road*

## Bridge works in focus

Bridge widening and construction is progressing rapidly with 13 bridges in total to be upgraded or constructed as part of the project. To ensure two lanes of traffic are maintained in each direction on the motorway during peak hours, works are being delivered in stages. This involves minor traffic switches and realignments as bridges are widened and constructed and in some cases demolished.

The first bridge upgrades for the project are complete, with the two northbound bridges at the Bicentennial Road interchange widened to their final alignment. These bridges will soon temporarily carry both directions of traffic, while the southbound bridges are widened. The interchange is on track to be completed by late 2017.

Work to widen the southbound bridge over Sandgate Road is also progressing well. The installation of new concrete deck units is nearing completion in preparation for both directions of traffic to be temporarily transferred onto the widened bridge early next year. This will then allow demolition of the existing northbound bridge and construction of a new bridge in its place.

Widening of the southbound bridge over Depot Road is progressing with piling works for the foundations well underway.

At the southern end of the project, works are continuing on the bridges over Nundah Creek. A section of the new northbound bridge is being built and will be finished in the coming months. This will allow northbound traffic to be shifted onto this new section of bridge, and the southbound traffic to be temporarily diverted onto the existing northbound bridge. The southbound bridge will then be demolished and a new bridge built in its place.

The bridge structure for the new Nudgee Road interchange is also taking shape. Temporary short-term closures of the Gateway Motorway will be required at night over the coming months, as sections of the new bridge are lifted into place above the motorway. The upgraded Nudgee Road interchange will provide safer access to the motorway and for traffic connecting to the local road network.

More than 550 bridge beams will be used to widen or construct the 13 bridges required for the project. These beams weigh in excess of 16,000 tonnes and if laid end to end would measure over 12 kilometres in length.

### What's next:

- ▶ Opening of a section of the southbound lanes of the new Deagon Deviation
- ▶ Construction of the new northbound carriageway of the Deagon Deviation
- ▶ Construction of the new motorway overpass to the Deagon Deviation
- ▶ Widening works complete on the southbound Sandgate Road bridge
- ▶ Traffic switch on the Gateway Motorway in the vicinity of Nundah Creek
- ▶ Completion of the new Nudgee Road overpass.





**Noise barrier locations**

— New barrier    
 — Upgraded barrier

## Noise management

To ensure road traffic noise is managed appropriately into the future, the project has carried out a detailed assessment between Nudgee and the Deagon Deviation in line with the Department of Transport and Main Roads' *Transport Noise Management: Code of Practice – November 2013*. The Code of Practice establishes a standard process for dealing with the effects of road traffic noise.

The noise assessment involved noise monitoring at various properties across the project alignment to develop a noise model. This model predicts future noise levels and the need for treatments, such as noise barriers.

The model considers and incorporates existing and future traffic volumes and speed, road gradient and road surface, height and location of residential dwellings and other buildings, and the noise reducing effects of natural and constructed noise attenuation.

The adjacent map indicates the approximate locations where new or upgraded noise barriers are required as part of the Gateway Upgrade North project.

Where noise barriers are required in close proximity to properties, the project team will contact residents in advance to discuss the works.

If you would like more information about noise barriers, please visit the Design page on the project website or contact the project team.





Boat attached to an Environmentally Friendly Mooring

## Project offsets its impacts

The project team is dedicated to reducing impacts on the environment, particularly sensitive ecosystems. This involves rigorous planning throughout design and construction to avoid damage and minimise the project's environmental footprint.

The project is also working to meet environmental offset requirements under *The Environmental Offsets Act 2014*, while contributing to the improvement of ecological best practice across industry. Under the Act the project is required to provide offsets for removal of habitat trees, removal of marine plants and any impacts to areas that are designated Marine Park.



EFM attached to the sea floor

Offsets can be provided in a range of forms including financial and on-ground. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection website provides an offset calculator to assist with determining the quantity of offset required.

## Financial offset

A small section of the project sits within an area designated by the Queensland Government as Marine Park. A Marine Park is established over tidal lands and waters and protects habitats including rocky shore, significant wetlands, mangroves, mudflats and beaches.

The project has made a financial contribution to the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing to help offset impacts on the Moreton Bay Marine Park.

## On-ground offset

Marine plants grow at various locations along the Gateway Upgrade North project alignment, in tidal areas, creeks and wetlands. Some marine plants, including mangroves and salt couch, need to be removed to construct the upgrade.

To offset the removal of these marine plants, the project is working collaboratively with Healthy Waterways and Catchments Ltd to carry out a Seagrass Restoration Program.

The restoration program is repairing seagrass beds located in Moreton Bay that have been damaged by traditional concrete and chain boat moorings. These traditional moorings are being replaced with Environmentally Friendly Moorings (EFM) that use a 'screw system' where the mooring post is screwed to the sea floor and used as the anchor point.

The project will install around 100 EFMs as part of the program, assisting with the recovery of damaged seagrass.

The project team is also working closely with Brisbane City Council to provide offset for habitat trees removed as part of the upgrade. This offset will be provided in the form of on-ground planting at a suitable site that is environmentally protected and will not be impacted by the project or future works.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads will also undertake landscape planting in areas disturbed by the project.

The extent of environmental offsets will continue to be calculated throughout construction and the project team will endeavour to reduce environmental impacts wherever possible. These initiatives are an important part of offsetting the impacts of construction and of the Gateway Upgrade North project's commitment to sustainable infrastructure.

## 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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