



Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3A Project Update

February 2019

The Gold Coast light rail is proving transformative and very successful with patronage now reaching nearly one million trips a month. Historic growth patterns indicate tram patronage will continue to increase.

It is predicted about 2 million people will move to South East Queensland over the next two decades with the Gold Coast population expected to increase to almost 1 million by 2041. Currently more than 12 million tourists visit the Gold Coast each year.

The light rail, with its mass transit capabilities, provides an alternative to car travel and will become increasingly crucial as the city continues to grow.

The light rail system has been planned to be delivered in a number of stages to respond to the growth of the Gold Coast. Stage 3A would expand the tram network to 27 kilometres from Helensvale to Burleigh Heads.

Community engagement

During August 2018, the project team reached out to the community to capture feedback on the project, with:

- about 750 people attending community drop in sessions and 169 submitting feedback forms,
- over 500 people taking part in market research, and
- more than 2000 people visiting the GCLR3A engagement website with 969 completing the online survey.

Community feedback from these activities indicated broad support for Stage 3A of the light rail. It also raised questions about potential construction impacts, changes to parking, increased density, pedestrian crossings on the Gold Coast Highway and future stages of light rail (west and south).

This community input has been used to inform the project's Detailed Business Case.

Stage 3A key features



Ride the G:
Broadbeach
South to
Burleigh Heads



Dual track centre
of the Gold Coast
Highway



8 stations



Retain **two traffic lanes** either side
of light rail tracks



5 new trams similar to
18 current vehicles



Approximately
16 to 17 minutes
from Broadbeach
South to
Burleigh Heads

Engagement outcomes

Market research

Independent market research consisting of four focus groups and a 500 person telephone survey was undertaken to gauge public opinion. Participants were residents along the current light rail alignment and residents and businesses along the Stage 3A corridor.

Nearly 7 in 10 respondents agree more public transport services are needed on the Gold Coast and believe investing in an extension of the light rail is the right solution over upgrading the bus network.

More than three quarters of residents and businesses support the proposed future stages of light rail and can see the big picture of extending the system.

Online survey

969 responses were received to the survey at www.gclr3a.com.au between 1 and 31 August. Survey results were similar to the independent market research with the majority of respondents supportive of Stage 3A to Burleigh; preferring an investment in light rail over buses.

Drop in sessions

Four community drop in sessions were held; two at the Burleigh Heads Surf Club and two at the Mermaid Beach Surf Club. The sessions gave interested community members the opportunity to view the reference design and meet with project team members to learn more about the proposed extension of the light rail. Attendees were invited to register for project updates and to provide feedback on the project.



Gold Coast Residents

86%

Support Stage 3A

- Strongest supporters.
- Have already experienced the positive impact of the light rail in their area.
- More frequent users of the current system and this increases connectivity.

“I would be happy to sell my car and just use the light rail if it went further south.”

65%

Likely to use Stage 3A



Corridor Businesses

80%

Support Stage 3A

- Similar to Gold Coast residents they strongly support Stage 3A.
- Want to see it happen ASAP so the benefit can be reaped ASAP.
- See it having a positive impact on businesses.

“It’s always been on the cards. Let’s just get on with it.”

61%

Likely to use Stage 3A



Corridor Residents

72%

Support Stage 3A

- More focus on both the positive and negative impact of Stage 3A.
- While support is still strong, those living in Burleigh have the most concerns about potential impact of the light rail, especially during the construction stage.

“It would encourage us to use the light rail more and also head south more often, especially to places like Burleigh.”

43%

Likely to use Stage 3A

You asked about...

Future stages

Provision for spur lines to the west will be made at Pacific Avenue and West Burleigh Road giving the opportunity for future connections if required.

Government funds to undertake a business case for a potential future stage of the light rail south from Burleigh Heads to Coolangatta (Stage 3B) have not yet been committed.

Construction

We want to minimise the inconvenience and impacts of construction on local communities and the environment as much as possible. To keep the city moving during construction the appointed construction contractor will be expected to provide practical support and information to the community and local businesses. The contractor will also be expected to keep the community informed about construction activities.

Urban design

The light rail project will incorporate public space improvements such as landscaping and pedestrian connectivity around light rail stations and key precincts.

Parking

Existing kerb side parking will be retained where possible, however where the Gold Coast Highway is too narrow to accommodate the light rail tracks, stations and vehicle traffic lanes some on-street parking will be removed. The City of Gold Coast is undertaking a parking study to analyse any likely project impacts and possible improvements.

Pedestrian crossings

The light rail extension travels through 18 signalised intersections on the Gold Coast Highway. An extra four signalised pedestrian crossings will be installed at Mermaid Beach South station, Nobby Beach station, Miami station and north of Fifth Avenue.

Future corridor growth

Stage 3A of the light rail gives the Gold Coast an opportunity to accommodate the right type of growth at the right location, as the population grows.

Any changes to zoning or land use are managed through amendments to the City Plan. Community consultation will be part of any future amendments to this plan.

Connecting the coast

It's not just those along the light rail alignment who benefit from a future light rail extension. The Gold Coast's wider public transport network will also reap the rewards.

As with Stages 1 and 2 of the light rail, bus services along the light rail route would be redirected west.

There will be two new bus interchanges at Christine Avenue and Burleigh Heads. Bus route changes will be made when Stage 3A opens. TransLink will provide more information about the changes closer this time.



Artist impression of the Christine Avenue bus interchange

The Gold Coast loves the G:

G:link light rail services have had a very high take up, giving the government confidence it will continue to be a popular public transport mode on the Gold Coast.



38 million passenger journeys since 2014



43% increase in patronage (tram and bus)



Almost 1 million passengers every month



100,000 daily average passengers during GC2018

The next steps

The Queensland Government, in partnership with the City of Gold Coast, finalised and submitted the Stage 3A Detailed Business Case to the independent infrastructure advisor, Building Queensland. The business case was endorsed by Building Queensland in December 2018.

A Queensland Government funding decision for the delivery of Stage 3A is dependent on a supportive business case evaluation and appropriate funding offers from the Australian Government and City of Gold Coast.

Should funding be made available, the project will appoint a design and construction partner. It will take around three years to build Stage 3A, with the possibility of trams operating to Burleigh Heads in 2023.

Project timeline



Stay up to date

Thank you to everyone who has participated so far. For more information and updates on the progress of the project:

Register for email updates by contacting:
gclr3A@tmr.qld.gov.au

Phone: 1800 312 600*

Email: gclr3A@tmr.qld.gov.au

Visit: www.tmr.qld.gov.au and search under 'projects' for Gold Coast Light Rail.

Post: PO Box 3798, Australia Fair Qld 4215
For information on Gold Coast Light Rail visit:
www.goldlink.com.au

*Free call anywhere in Australia. Call charges apply from mobiles and payphones. Check with your service provider for call costs.