

Northern Transitway Consultation Summary Report

February 2020



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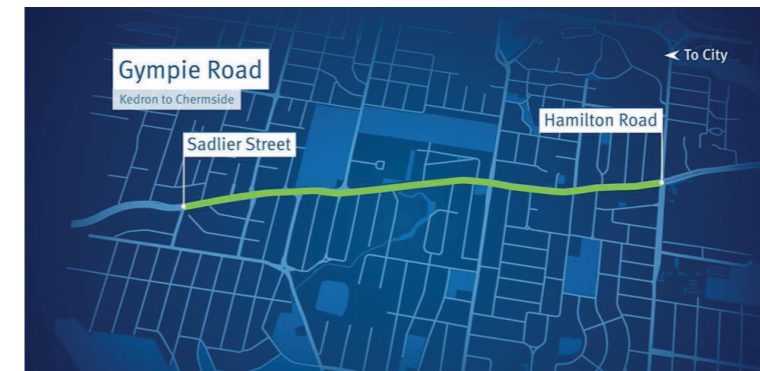
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Project background



One of Brisbane's most congested corridors.



The Northern Transitway is a cost-effective solution to provide a high quality public transport corridor along Gympie Road, from Sadlier Street, Kedron to Hamilton Road, Chermside.

It will deliver targeted bus priority from Kedron to Chermside, improving the safety, capacity and reliability of this important link in Brisbane's northern public transport network.

The 2.3km corridor will support high frequency on-road bus services and enable reliable travel times, encouraging more people to use public transport and assist in managing congestion by separating buses from general traffic.



Why do we need a Northern Transitway?

In the north of Brisbane, more people will be living and working around areas such as Chermside and along the Gympie Road corridor. The high reliance on travel by private vehicles has created challenges for the reliability and efficiency of the road network.

With the region's road network operating at, or close to, capacity in most of the key commuter corridors to the Brisbane CBD during peak periods, better use of available road space is needed. Projects that encourage increased use of public and active transport can help reduce congestion and move more people more sustainably.

The highly congested Gympie Road corridor already carries high frequency bus services, however, the lack of continuous bus priority results in poor reliability and travel times. Gympie Road will continue to experience increased pressure with continued infill development, and longer distance commuter demand from outer growth areas.

More than 9,000 people currently use buses to travel along this section of Gympie Road each weekday, and for large areas of Brisbane's North, investment in bus priority is essential. The Northern Transitway is a cost-effective step to extending the benefits of the existing busway all the way to Chermside.



Northern Transitway: Gympie Road – Kedron to Chermside

Finalised Plan February 2020





Key benefits and features

The Northern Transitway will provide:

- a dedicated lane for buses, both inbound and outbound, along Gympie Road between Kedron and Chermside benefiting over 5,000 people during peak periods each weekday
- travel time savings of up to six minutes on some services during peak periods. This means that between Kedron and Chermside, customers can expect up to 50% reduction in travel times
- higher frequency of services at bus stops within the project corridor, increasing from every 15 minutes to every 5 minutes or better during peak periods
- more local residents with greater access to high frequency bus services. Currently there are approximately 1,600 people that are within 400m of a high frequency bus stop. Proposed changes to bus service stopping pattern as part of the Northern Transitway project will more than triple this to approximately 5,500 people (based on population data from 2016 Census)
- the ability to cater for the increased travel demand that future urban growth will bring without impacting journey times and service reliability
- bus stops that are accessible and compliant with disability access requirements
- improved pathways along the alignment, for cyclists and pedestrians.

How we consulted with the community

The purpose of consultation for the Northern Transitway project was to raise awareness about the proposed project and provide an opportunity for the community to have input in to the project.

Initial consultation with the community commenced in November 2018. This included the distribution of a project fact sheet to local businesses and residents along the project corridor. The project team also door knocked the corridor and spoke with businesses to raise awareness about the project.

Broader community consultation on the proposed design took place between September and October 2019. Four community information sessions were held, two at the Chermside Bowls Club and two at Kedron State School.

The opportunities to provide feedback were promoted via:

- distribution of a project fact sheet with the proposed design to more than 30,000 addresses
- social media posts to target local residents and bus customers
- phone calls and face-to-face meetings with local businesses
- targeted email notifications
- signage at key bus stops and bus stations
- the project webpage including details for a project phone number and email address.

How people participated

Throughout the six-week consultation period, there were over 350 interactions with approximately 185 people through a range of activities:

of the information sessions held, around 145 people registered, and 94 people provided written feedback

65 emails and calls were received to the Northern Transitway project team



53,000

people reached through three social media posts

42 face-to-face meetings

community feedback was evaluated by the project team and considered when finalising the design of the Northern Transitway

What people told us

Community feedback has provided valuable input into how people use Gympie Road and public transport along this corridor.

While we received a variety of comments and feedback on the project concept design, the key points we heard include:

support for improved bus travel times and reliability

support for improved pathways

support for safety benefits resulting from the access changes to side streets to left-in and left-out only

concerns regarding 24 hour, 7 day operation of the bus lanes, and loss of on-street parking on Gympie Road

concerns about removing the bus stops on Gympie Road near Coles, at Strathmore and Castle Streets

concern about changing access to some local side streets to left-in and left-out only

concern regarding current congestion and delays experienced at the Gympie Road and Hamilton Road intersection





How we have listened

Removal of bus stops

What you said

We received strong feedback from local residents who were concerned about the removal of the bus stops near the local Coles shopping centre.

We were advised that these bus stops are often used by people with mobility and accessibility requirements, and the extra distance to adjacent bus stops would be too great if they were removed.

What we are doing

The two bus stops on Gympie Road near Coles (Kedron) will be retained in the final design:

- Gympie Road near Strathmore Street, Kedron, Stop 29/30 (011042)
- Gympie Road near Castle Street, Kedron (003877)

This means bus customers will still be able to use these stops and will also benefit from access to the higher frequency bus services proposed to stop there as part of the Northern Transitway.

While retaining these stops will slightly decrease the efficiency of the transitway, the impact is considered minimal in comparison to the overall benefit of retaining the stops for the local community.

Bus lane hours of operation and loss of on-street parking

What you said

People from local businesses were concerned the 24/7 operation would remove the ability for customers and delivery drivers to park and would impact business viability.

What we are doing

In the final design, the bus lanes will operate in both directions during weekday, peak periods only. The AM peak period is from 6am to 9am and the PM peak period is from 3pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday.

This means approximately 5,000 passengers each weekday will benefit from the travel time savings and service reliability, while local businesses and their customers will have on-street parking available along Gympie Road outside of peak periods and on weekends.

During the hours of operation, the bus lanes will become a 'clearway' and vehicles will not be permitted to park or stop along this section of Gympie Road (for more information on 'clearway' signage visit www.qld.gov.au/transport/safety/signs/regulatory).

Local access changes

What you said

Local residents told us they were concerned about the potential increase to traffic on local streets and the delays at key intersections along Gympie Road (in particular Rode Road and Kitchener Road/Sports Street) resulting from the changes of six unsignalised side streets to be left-in and left-out only.

What we are doing

These changes were proposed to improve safety for all road users, by removing right-turn vehicle movements across four lanes of traffic.

The final design will include a new set of traffic signals at the intersection of Gympie Road and Boothby Street, including a dedicated right-turn lane and U-turn facility. These signals will provide:

- Reduction in the volume of traffic required to make a U-turn at the Rode Road and Kitchener Road intersections, allowing the capacity of through traffic on Gympie Road to be preserved at these intersections.
- Signalised right-turn into Boothby Street, which will provide safer access for the businesses in the light-industrial precinct, and for local residents as well.
- Improved opportunity for some residents to enter and exit local streets, including Childers, Lawley and Mellor Streets.

Providing traffic signals at the Boothby Street and Gympie Road intersection will have minimal impact on the efficiency of traffic movements and will improve access and safety for local residents and businesses.



What's next

The detailed service planning of the bus network will continue to be refined and any feedback provided during the consultation period is being considered.

This includes final route alignments and stopping patterns to ensure that we can best service the passengers who utilise these services while still ensuring that we are able to gain the significant benefits to be realised by the Northern Transitway. Tenders will be released in the coming months and construction is expected to start in late 2020.

Stay informed

We will continue to update the community about the Northern Transitway project via distributing notifications to residents and businesses along the project alignment, via email, and updating the web page.

To stay informed about the Northern Transitway and to be added to the project email list, you can email the Project Team at **NorthernTransitway@tmr.qld.gov.au** or call **3066 4338** during business hours.

For public transport information, download the MyTransLink app, visit translink.com.au or call 13 12 30.