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Ruthven Street safety improvement project reaches completion

- The New England Highway upgrade at Ruthven Street is complete, improving safety for drivers, bike riders and pedestrians.
- Safety upgrades included extending right turning lanes and installing mast arms for improved visibility of traffic signals and new traffic signals installed at Donahue Street.
- The \$14.1 million design and construction project was fully funded by the Queensland Government.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has completed a safety improvement project to reduce the risk of fatal and serious injury crashes on the New England Highway (Ruthven Street) from James Street to Nelson Street.

Safety improvements along this busy Toowoomba arterial road included removing filtered right turns (now only permitted with a green arrow), extending right turning lanes, upgrading bus stop facilities and installing mast arms for improved visibility of traffic signals at some intersections.

Pedestrian safety has also been improved with new raised pedestrian crossings at Stenner Street and Nelson Street intersections and the installation of advance flashing lights and a smart pedestrian crossing outside the Nubeena Retirement Village.

Smart pedestrian crossings use detectors to monitor pedestrians as they cross the road and adjust the crossing time to match the pedestrian's walking speed. This results in improved safety and reduced traffic delays.

The commissioning of new traffic signals at Donahue Street will provide safer pedestrian access across Ruthven and Donahue streets near the Nell E Robinson netball precinct, the nearby retirement village and food outlets, while providing a dedicated U-turn facility for both northbound and southbound traffic.

To improve safety for bike riders, the southbound bike lane on Ruthven Street has been extended to just north of Stenner Street and head start boxes have been installed at some intersections.

Quotes attributable to the Transport and Main Roads Regional Director Bill Lansbury:

"This \$14.1 million design and construction project has addressed the high crash history of the area, particularly the fatal and serious injury crash history on this section of the New England Highway.

"This project has delivered high-benefit, low-cost improvements that will make Ruthven Street safer for drivers, bike riders and pedestrians.

"To further increase safety, a reduced speed limit of 50km/h between Long and Alderley streets now applies."

The project is part of the Targeted Road Safety Program. For more information visit: [New England Highway Toowoomba Warwick high risk roads | Department of Transport and Main Roads \(tmr.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au)

ENDS

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New England Highway, Ruthven Street, Toowoomba

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