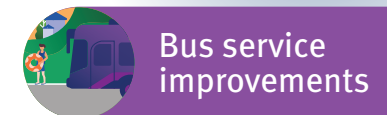


Sunshine Coast rail and public transport Consultation and engagement insights summary

May 2024



About TMR's rail and public transport engagement

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) undertook an integrated engagement approach for key rail and public transport projects being planned on the Sunshine Coast. This engagement provided the community with an opportunity to learn about major progress being made on the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line and Sunshine Coast Public Transport projects. It also provided details about plans for a *Northern Sunshine Coast Public Transport Strategy* and improved bus services, and invited feedback to help shape planning.

The consultation aimed to provide the community with information about how these projects are proposed to work together, as per the Southern Sunshine Coast Public Transport Strategy, to reduce car dependence through new travel options, ease congestion and improve the efficiency of the broader Sunshine Coast transport network.

Consultation was undertaken between 1 November and 10 December 2023. The engagement included a mix of traditional and digital methods to offer a variety of ways for everyone in the community to find out more and provide input.



Auriella, age 5



Madelyn, age 5



Rosie, age 5



Wilder, age 4

In an effort to engage youth in the region's future transport solution, TMR developed a children's colouring-in activity. A total of 39 colourful and creative contributions were received during the engagement period.

Consultation and engagement summary



5.5 week consultation period



3 community information sessions

Engagement outcomes



Over 41,000 views across 4 online engagement pages



More than 16,000 online visitors



147 emails received



1085 contributions from 516 contributors



Around 600 people attended one of the 3 information sessions



17 detailed submissions received



Information sessions were held at The Collective Markets (Alexandra Headlands), Caloundra Markets and Venue 114 (Birtinya).



Sunshine Coast rail and public transport Consultation and engagement insights summary Department of Transport and Main Roads | May 2024

How we told you about the engagement



Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line

Feedback snapshot

This round of consultation provided an update to the community about the proposed corridor refinements and the station designs. TMR shared with the community how previous feedback was incorporated into the business case.

"I would use this to commute to Brisbane when I need to be in the office and great for family from Brisbane to use instead of driving"

"We always prefer to train travel to Brisbane for family visits, appointments and leisure. We are seniors and hate driving in Brisbane."

"To travel from Brisbane to beaches at Mooloolaba and Maroochydore quickly without driving!"

"Good option, I could bike to station and train it down to Brisbane or up the Coast."

"It would slash travelling times to and from Fortitude Valley and Caloundra as well as other parts of the Sunshine Coast."

"I would use this line to travel to Brisbane, and local trips. This is a game changer."

"Travel by rail to Brisbane for access to airport and city for events and meetings. By travelling by rail it would be more sustainable."



Key feedback themes



Construction start date



Improved travel, especially to Brisbane



Property impacts



Technical suggestions



Environmental impacts



Sunshine Coast Public Transport

Feedback snapshot

This round of consultation provided information about new project elements. This included the proposed locations for 18 stations within the Stage 1 area, along with information about placemaking elements (character types) being considered to ensure careful integration within the community. Details about two vehicle options – bus rapid transit and light rail – being further explored for the project were also released.



705
individual responses to survey questions

361
comments on the visioner tool by 197 users*

71%
of survey respondents provided feedback on bus rapid transit and light rail vehicle options

20%
of survey respondents provided feedback on station character type

20%
of survey respondents provided feedback on proposed station locations

Concerns about and opposition to light rail made up 59% of all posts received

The Coastal character type received the highest volume of feedback for all character types

Note: Figures do not tally as some survey respondents provided feedback on more than one project element.

The proposed stations that received the highest volumes of feedback included:

- Alexandra Parade near Mary Street, Alexandra Headland
- Alexandra Parade near Maroubra Street, Alexandra Headland
- Mooloolaba Esplanade near Venning Street, Mooloolaba.

**Note: Some users posted repeatedly to the tool, however, screen names were attributed for each post which provided a level of transparency. TMR has taken this into consideration as part of the analysis of the feedback received.*

Sunshine Coast Public Transport

Feedback snapshot continued

Overall feedback themes



Support for alternative travel options to private vehicles



General support for reduced car dependence



Support for bus rapid transit



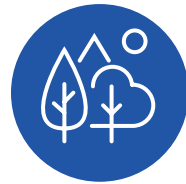
Opposition to light rail (concerns about fixed infrastructure, overhead wires, noise and flexibility)



Support for light rail (benefits like wireless, greater capacity, ride quality)



Density concerns



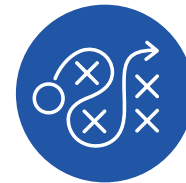
Protecting the environment



Desire to retain local character



Preference for small/electric buses



Alternative route suggestions and flexibility



Station feedback, concerns and suggestions



Funding and affordability

“Single seat rides are poor network design - reduce freq in outer sectors. A good network needs to focus on frequent, well-timed transfers.”

“More public transport options and less motorways please.”

“The sunshine coast desperately needs light rail and other forms of public transport to stop the notorious holiday traffic jams.”

“As a driver you don’t get stuck in traffic, you ARE the traffic - the buses are not the ones that cause it, more ridership = less cars.”

“Low floor trams provide excellent accessibility for wheelchair users, much better than buses where only a small space up front can be used.”

“Would love to see BRT or LR, shame to see such resistance to an important project for our coast’s legacy”

“Light Rail will be a great way to reduce car dependency. The only way to actually reduce car congestion is to get people out of their cars!!”

“NO LIGHT RAIL No fixed wires, rails along coastal strip. Bus rapid transport Protect our environment. Once it’s gone, it’s gone.”

“Either way, not fixing traffic by building one more lane. The answer is less cars and better public and active transport. Let’s do it right.”

“If we had a frequent and proper bus network people would use it but we don’t. Put a bus on a dedicated line, problems solved. No light rail.”

Bus service improvements

Feedback snapshot

As part of the planning for the Sunshine Coast Public Transport and Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line projects, TMR is looking to introduce new bus routes, additional trips and longer operating hours to continue to improve connections between stations, key destinations and areas across the Sunshine Coast including:

- University of the Sunshine Coast
- Sunshine Coast University Hospital
- Nambour, Landsborough and the wider Sunshine Coast hinterland
- Sunshine Coast Airport
- north to Yandina, Cooroy, Coolumb and Noosa.



53 individual contributions

32%

suggested specific route changes based on location or amenity that:

- link to rail services
- link to active transport
- cater to tourism
- link to the Sunshine Coast Airport

Key feedback theme

39%

want more services, more often

24%

want better services that connect east-west

Other themes



Service delivery improvements, including more affordable fares and bus stop design suggestions



Improvements to existing services to encourage greater patronage



More bus stops



Bus service improvements

Feedback snapshot continued



“A hinterland fleet of frequent [or call demand] small electric buses for efficiency & could reduce car dependency across rural communities.”

“I live at Kings needed a colourful circular bus to connect to places like Aquatic and Tennis Centre, Corbould Park, other beaches, RSL etc.”

“We need better bus routes connecting industrial areas to residential. Also, faster & regular connections to the Noosa network.”

“High frequency collector-distributor bus loops to pick up and drop off passengers for the light/heavy rail system would be great.”

“At the moment I have to catch 3 buses to get to the station... Would love for there to be a bus to take me direct to new station when done.”

“I’d like to see a trial bus service from Coolum Beach to Nambour (via Marcoola, Pacific Paradise, Bli Bli & then servicing Petrie Creek Rd).”

“Better connections from Landsborough rail station. Bus often leaves before you can walk to new bus pick up point, then long delay to next one.”

“Buses servicing Sunshine Coast Airport every 15 minutes during peak flight times.”

“Consider more connections to hinterland train stations e.g Palmwoods to Maroochydore.”

“A new bus service from USC to Maroochydore is urgently needed. The 615 is too infrequent and is not in line with demand for Sunshine Plaza.”

“Longer operating hours and additional trips. Lower fares. Discounted weekly, monthly and yearly fare packages.”



Northern Sunshine Coast Public Transport Strategy

Feedback snapshot

The community was invited to provide input into the development of the *Northern Sunshine Coast Public Transport Strategy* by telling TMR about the area's challenges and opportunities, as well as their ideas and priorities via an interactive map and feedback tool.

Feedback will help shape the development of the Strategy which will set out TMR's vision for a future public transport system for the northern Sunshine Coast area that all levels of government can work towards.

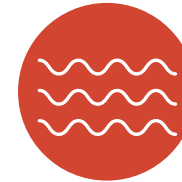
305
comments
on the
interactive map

93
pieces of
feedback via the
comment box

Key feedback themes



Increased bus services



Connections to Noosa



Connections to Sunshine Coast Airport



Improved active transport



Integration with rail services



Other road and public transport projects outside of study area



Northern Sunshine Coast Public Transport Strategy

Feedback snapshot continued



“Motor traffic is out of control, and roads are choked. We have very limited trains to the south. This needs to be increased urgently, so we have more transportation for older people, and those that do not drive or own cars, like students, or low socioeconomic groups.”

“There is currently no easy quick way to travel on public transport from Noosa Heads to Brisbane. Please provide a bus service from Noosa Junction to Roma Street busway and the Brisbane airport. Another alternative would be a bus service to Eumundi train station & frequent trains from Eumundi to Brisbane.”

“If we can't have more frequent trains to Gympie, we need a daily bus shuttle service between Gympie and Nambour station to allow us to access more train services to Brisbane and returning. It could also drop passengers off at stations in between that link to bus services to the Sunshine coast.”

“Better bus connectivity and more cycling infrastructure are easy ways to improve congestion and boost the local lifestyle. An express bus with space for baggage connecting rail and Noosa would be a great way to get tourists off the road and reduce the number of parking spaces.”

“Traffic is a huge problem in peak holiday periods and requires a unique solution. Small electric buses used to service the Noosa Shire, owned and operated in conjunction with Noosa Council would be an innovative and workable solution.”

“Any public transit solution for the Northern Sunshine Coast must include a frequent and widespread bus (hopefully all electric vehicles). However no road based solution should be considered until the long proposed widening of the Sunshine Motorway is complete.”



