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PROJECT UPDATE
March 2026

Swan River Crossings

Fremantle Traffic Bridge

Figure 1: Community Bus Ride - 1 February 2026

Farewelling the 1939 Fremantle Traffic Bridge

On Sunday February 1, 2026, the Fremantle Traffic Bridge closed to traffic. To mark the occasion, we asked community members to nominate for the last bus convoy to drive over the old bridge by explaining their interest and connection to the bridge.
Over 80 people joined the Deputy Premier Rita Saffioti, Fremantle MLA Simone McGurk and key stakeholders, sharing fascinating stories about themselves and family members who:

- Worked on the old bridge.
- Cast the orbs that sat on the north and south entrance of the bridge on pedestals (the orbs will be used in the urban and landscaping design program).
- Were early pioneers of Fremantle.
- Were related to Fremantle's first mayor, and others who worked on building the Inner Harbour.
- Were migrants from the 1890s.
- We were even joined by two people who were born on the bridge, some 60 years apart!

Long term local residents shared childhood memories of catching fish, swimming and playing in and around the bridge and riverbanks. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Changing Behaviours – Rethinking Journeys

In the initial weeks following closure, the road network has continued to flow and the number of road users seeking to cross the river during peak hour has reduced. It is apparent that people are rethinking their peak hour travel patterns, including using trains and buses, flexible work hours and using active transport to and from work.

Schools both north and south of Stirling Bridge are also changing behaviours following our significant engagement program that started in October 2024. For example:

- Some schools open earlier to accommodate early drop-offs.
- Some parents and students are taking bikes on trains between Fremantle and North Fremantle.
- More students are catching public transport, including trains.
- Some colleges are providing additional shuttle buses to collect students from train stations.

We sincerely thank schools and the wider community for planning ahead, reducing vehicle use where possible, and shifting to alternative modes of transport. See links below for further information:

- Transport Options During Bridge Closure.
- Fremantle Traffic Bridge Closure – Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure.
- Fremantle Traffic Bridge Closure - Transperth.

Importantly, Fremantle, North Fremantle and East Fremantle are open for business, and we encourage you to continue to support local businesses during the bridge closure.

Final Edge Beam Segments Installed

The Project reached a major milestone in late January with all 166 edge beam segments installed before the bridge closed. This allowed us to start removing the existing bridge immediately after closure.

Community members noticed small gaps in the middle and at the end of the bridge between the final segments. These gaps were intentionally left to allow space to connect the last segments (in the middle and at the ends), with a stitch pour used to fill and complete the join. A stitch pour is a construction technique commonly used in precast construction to connect two separate concrete sections together.

Figure 2: Final edge beam segment leaving the pre-cast yard facility.

Bridge Removal Underway

Works to dismantle the old bridge were underway the day after its closure to traffic and are making strong progress. In early February, large concrete sections of the old bridge deck were removed and parts of the timber deck dismantled. This is the first of six stages of bridge removal outlined in our step-by-step Bridge Removal Process Factsheet.

Figure 3: Bridge deck removal in process.

T-Roff Beams

Finishing the edge beams will allow us to start constructing the new bridge deck while we remove the existing bridge. This includes installation of T-Roff beams.

Similar to the edge beams, the T-Roff beams are precast and delivered to site by truck. A total of 46 T-Roff beams will be installed by the cranes. Eight of these beams weigh approximately 100 tonnes and will be placed at the base of each tower and on the abutments. The 38 smaller beams will weigh approximately 70 tonnes each – which is equivalent to approximately 18 empty 40 foot shipping containers. Each beam will connect into the edge beams on the eastern and western sides, providing a secure structure on which to build the bridge deck.

The first T-Roff beam is expected to be installed in March.

Common Community Queries

"Bus Only" lane at the Canning Highway and Stirling Highway intersection

We've had a few queries about the "Bus Only" lane at the Canning Highway/ Stirling Highway Intersection, so here's what you need to know:

- The west and eastbound through lanes on Canning Highway at the intersection of Stirling Highway are strictly for bus use only.
- The dedicated bus lanes are implemented to improve bus travel times and reliability servicing Fremantle, aiming to encourage the community to shift to public transport and reduce congestion during the bridge closure period. General traffic use of the bus lanes on Canning Highway to continue straight through the Stirling Highway intersection heading east or west is illegal. This action disrupts bus travel times and impacts public transport efficiency which is playing a critical role in reducing congestion during the Fremantle Traffic Bridge closure.
- There is clear signage in place on Canning Highway, including 'red road surface', 'bus only' lane markings and 'bus only' traffic signals displayed at the intersection.
- Drivers are required to use alternative routes, such as Marmion Street or High Street.

North Fremantle: Local Government Roads

The Fremantle Bridges Alliance has been working closely with the City of Fremantle prior to and during the bridge closure to provide support and assistance on matters relating to local roads, including Thompson Road and Harvest Road, which falls under the City's responsibility. For queries regarding any proposed traffic calming mitigations on these roads, please contact the City's Infrastructure & Project Team on 1300 693 736.

Bridge Timbers

Over the years, chemicals have been used to preserve the bridge timbers to extend its life and may not be suitable for milling. Where possible, timbers in good condition will be repurposed to maintain other timber bridges in Western Australia. See our Bridge Condition Factsheet for more details.

Live Traffic WA Mobile App

Why not download the *Live Traffic WA* app to receive instant information about traffic changes and congestion updates? The Road Network Operations Centre (RNOC) provides real-time congestion information through the app, which is played through your vehicle's speakers. More information is available here.

High Street Roundabout

Some road users may have noticed new signals installed on the approaches to the High Street roundabout. These will help manage traffic flow during the closure and will only be activated during periods of congestion to help traffic move through the intersection. They do not operate as standard traffic lights. More information is available here.

Further Information

Click here to learn more about the Project or scan the QR code.
To sign up for Project Updates, click here.
For enquiries, please phone 138 138 or email enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au.