

Smart Freeway Mitchell Southbound: Hester Avenue to Warwick Road



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The new Smart Freeway Mitchell Southbound, under construction between Hester Avenue and Warwick Road, is taking shape.

A new 8.2 kilometre traffic lane, adjacent to the rail reserve between Hodges Drive and Hepburn Avenue, has been built and is now being used by traffic.

Moving traffic onto this new lane has allowed construction work to progress on the verge side (left heading south) of the freeway. This includes building a new 1.5 kilometre auxiliary lane between Hepburn Avenue on-ramp and Warwick Road off-ramp, which is scheduled for completion in November 2023.

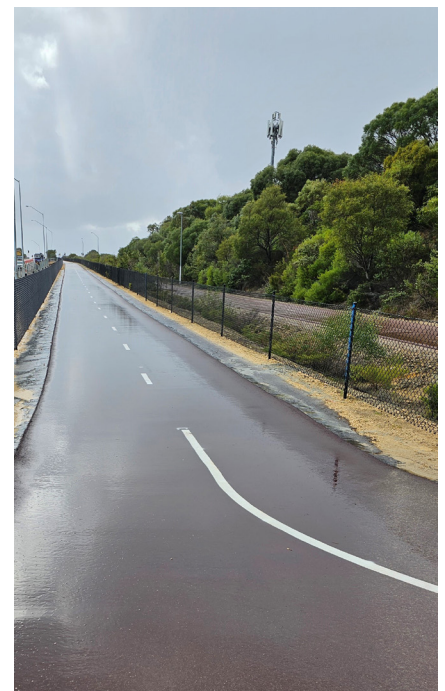
Significant earthworks continue for the new Principal Shared Path (PSP) between Ocean Reef Road and Warwick train station. In consultation with the City of Joondalup, the alignment for this path has been optimised to save as many trees as possible. A number of large retaining walls are being constructed to support earthworks. This is particularly important

with construction in long and narrow work areas.

Work on foundations for noise walls is underway, and production of the pre-cast concrete panels continues in readiness for installation in the second half of 2023. Typically, noise walls higher than 2.7 metres on property boundaries will be topped with tinted acrylic panels to allow natural light through.

Preparing the site for this new infrastructure requires significant behind-the-scenes construction activity which may not always be obvious, especially when driving past the site. For the safety of our workers, as well as road users, speed reductions remain in place in most areas.

This project is scheduled for completion in early 2024.



Progress update

- Constructed almost nine kilometres of new concrete barrier adjacent to the rail line, south of Hodges Drive. Poured in situ using a massive 7000 cubic metres of concrete, this barrier provides upgraded protection between the rail and traffic lanes.



- Reinforced the existing Joondalup rail tunnel wing wall near Hodges Drive, allowing the new traffic lane to be built adjacent to the rail line. This involved the installation of 40 pre-cast concrete panels below ground level, attached to a complex series of restraint straps. Earth was then compacted around this infrastructure to stabilise the ground.
- Built 1.4 kilometres of noise wall foundations adjacent to Woodvale and Kingsley. In total, more than five kilometres of noise walls will be built for this project.
- Started building 2.1 kilometres of retaining walls to facilitate construction of new sections of Principal Shared Path (PSP). Works have commenced on the project's largest retaining wall, along the Ocean Reef Road to Mitchell Freeway southbound on-ramp. Some 11,000 limestone blocks will be used to complete the wall.
- Installed almost 9 kilometres of drainage, requiring significant excavation. In some cases, we've excavated as deep as 5 metres to protect existing gas and power services. In total, this project will install more than 13 kilometres of drainage.
- Started installing below-ground technology on nine freeway on-ramps. This will be connected to our Smart Freeway components towards the end of the project, to provide drivers with real-time traffic information.

What's next?

- Install noise walls adjacent to residential areas, improving amenity for local communities. Where noise walls are replacing boundary fences, we will consult with residents prior to installation.
- Complete construction of the PSP between Ocean Reef Road and Warwick Train Station, enhancing access and connectivity for riders and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.
- Open the new auxiliary lane between Hepburn Avenue on-ramp and Warwick Road off-ramp.
- Complete installation of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) at nine freeway on-ramps and feeder roads between Hester Avenue and Warwick Road, to give drivers real-time traffic information.
- Complete drainage improvements, including drainage basins and piped road crossings.
- Undertake final asphalt resurfacing and line-marking on the freeway and on-ramps.
- Complete landscaping in the winter months following project completion.
- Progress public art concepts and identify opportunities for community input.



The bigger picture

These works are part of the overall Smart Freeway – Mitchell Southbound project, which is being rolled out between Hester Avenue and Vincent Street. All 16 entry ramps are being modified with co-ordinated signals. Smart technology is also being installed between Warwick Road and Vincent Street, including 23 over-lane gantries with electronic signs which can display speed reductions and let you know when a lane is closed ahead.

There is another important project being completed on this section of the Mitchell Freeway, extending Stephenson Avenue to Cedric Street. This includes a new freeway interchange, which will significantly reduce congestion on local roads, a new bus bridge and upgrades to Stirling Station's bus interchange.



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