

Swan River Crossings New bridge for Fremantle



Artist interpretation

A new bridge designed to replace the Fremantle Traffic Bridge will be submitted for Development Approval. Community and stakeholders will be invited to provide comment via the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage consultation hub.

The Fremantle Traffic Bridge was opened in 1939 as a temporary structure (the fourth built at this site) and has served its function well. The bridge has been deteriorating over several years, and despite extensive strengthening and maintenance works, it needs to be replaced. The new bridge will be the fifth built in this location.

The previous concept released in August 2022 proposed extensive changes to Canning Highway and the Beach Street foreshore, and was not supported by the community or local government authorities. The concept also exceeded the available funding.

A decision was made to reduce the complexity and costs of the project. The construction of the rail bridge and the PSP from North Fremantle Station to the river have been deferred and will not be built as part of the revised scope. However, the new concept allows space for future rail if required.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NEW BRIDGE



Two traffic lanes in each direction for road users.



Ties into existing Queen Victoria Street at the northern end and Canning Highway intersection to the south.



Wider and safer pedestrian and cyclist paths on each side of the new bridge (up to 4 metres wide).



Minimises impact to the limestone escarpment.



Improves navigational safety for boats, kayaks and river users with higher and wider clearances (up to 9 metres).



Provides space for any future rail bridges west of the new bridge.

What we heard from community and stakeholders

Several different concepts have been investigated and developed since 2020 in response to community and stakeholder feedback. The concept released in August 2022 was based on previous community feedback asking for an alignment between the bridges (west of the existing bridge) and stakeholder requests to maximise urban design and landscaping. However, the proposed extensive changes to Canning Highway and the Beach Street foreshore received mixed feedback, including:

- Desire to keep the current Canning Highway and Queen Victoria Street intersection.
- Concerns that making Beach Street a cul de sac would increase traffic and congestion on local roads.
- Concern about Canning Highway moving closer to the foreshore.
- Desire not to pre-empt Westport or Future of Fremantle outcomes.

The new design has ensured:

- A shorter construction time frame will be required.
- A reduction of the number of piers in the river in response to heritage and navigational clearance issues.
- Pedestrian access to the foreshore, Naval Store and surrounding area is maintained.
- Minimal construction impact on the southern landing, limestone escarpment and Beach Street Reserve.
- The Ferry Capstan remains untouched and will be celebrated through urban design and landscaping opportunities.
- The popular Containbow art piece remains in its current location.
- Beach Street is retained as a local access road.



Concept only – subject to change

Heritage

The design features of the new bridge require further development and investigation, but there are opportunities to tell the story of the crossings, including previous traffic bridges, in the new structure. A key advantage of building on the existing alignment is maintaining the location (and heritage) of the crossing that dates back thousands of years, followed by the first of four bridges built in 1866.



Two bridges from Cantonment Hill - 1890

Next steps

Subject to Development Approval, design work will continue with investigations and testing to help develop key features of the bridge. This will continue through to the first half of 2024 before the project moves into detailed design and construction in the second half of 2024.

A construction program will be developed and will consider building the piers first to allow for the existing bridge to stay open as long as possible.

Consultation with local government, residents and businesses will be a priority to understand the impact of any construction program and put in place measures to minimise the impacts to all road users, pedestrians, cyclists, river users and the wider community.

Learn more

Visit the Swan River Crossings Project web page [here](#) to learn more about the project and register your details to receive future project updates.

If you have any enquiries, please phone 138 138 or email enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au.