

Geraldton Southern Transport Corridor



MAIN ROADS
Western Australia

WA Government
Railways Commission

Project Description

The Southern Transport Corridor is an important feature and integral part of the Geraldton Regional Plan, which provides a guiding framework for the future management, protection and coordination of regional planning within the Geraldton region.

The Southern Transport Corridor will provide a unique opportunity for the City of Geraldton to redefine its future development and encourage growth of associated businesses, tourism, economic and employment opportunities in the region.

The Geraldton Southern Transport Corridor involves the construction of:

- a single rail line from the Namgulu Industrial Area to the Geraldton Port;
- a new east-west link road between the Geraldton Airport and the Geraldton Port;
- associated interchanges and connections to the local road system; and
- road improvement works within the Port Precinct.

Further, the project will include modification to rail tracks within the Port Precinct to improve unloading arrangements. Landscaping work will be undertaken along the transport corridor to integrate the works with the existing environment and minimise the impact on the surrounding area.

Also contained within the scope of the project, but not as part of the design and construct contract to be managed by Main Roads, will be the removal of the existing railway line.

The Geraldton Southern Transport Corridor will be constructed in two stages.

Stage One

Stage One will include constructing the new rail line and the first section of the highway from west of the new North West Coastal Highway roundabout to the Geraldton Port. This stage will also include the associated work to connect the corridor to the local road system, and will incorporate improvements within the Port Precinct.

The new highway will be constructed as a two lane road, except for the section between the Brand Highway/Cathedral Avenue interchange and the new roundabout at North West Coastal Highway, which will be constructed as a four lane dual carriageway in recognition of the traffic demand and vehicle configurations.

Local access to stage one of the transport corridor will be provided at a signalised interchange at the Brand Highway/Cathedral Avenue intersection and via a roundabout at North West Coastal Highway. The key north-south routes of Highbury Street and Durlacher Street will be maintained by bridges across the new road and rail line.

Modifications to the road network in the vicinity of the Geraldton Port will be carried out to improve access and service for the local and regional traffic travelling to the Port and the surrounding industrial, residential and recreational areas.

Central to the works within the Port Precinct will be the construction of an access road, which will provide a new, direct regional link to the Geraldton Port adjacent to the proposed rail line.

Also contained in these works will be the construction of a rail tunnel, which will separate rail traffic from road traffic and maintain access to the Fisherman's Wharf and the residential area of West End.

The road improvements within the Port Precinct have been developed to improve the connection to the Southern Transport Corridor while minimising the disturbance and impacts on the local community and industry.

Stage Two

Stage Two of the project will involve constructing the final section of the highway from the Geraldton Airport to North West Coastal Highway to join the corridor, complete the project and ultimately provide a direct east-west link to the Geraldton Port.

This section of the highway will be connected to the local road network by a roundabout at Geraldton/Walkaway Road and at a new T-intersection at Goulds Road.

Development Needed

The free flow of goods between industrial and port sites is crucial to the successful functioning of an export dependent region such as the Mid West.

The corridor will provide an alternative route for freight vehicles, which will improve access and efficiency for the transport industry and improve safety for all road users by reducing conflict between freight and passenger vehicles.



The project will remove the need for three major rail level crossings at Chapman Road, North West Coastal Highway and the Geraldton-Mount Magnet Road.

The removal of the railway will allow the city's foreshore and adjacent real estate to be redefined and developed to enhance the amenity of the marine and central business district area.

This redevelopment will encourage tourism, growth of associated businesses, and economic and employment opportunities for the region.

Good transport links are necessary to ensure that the needs of the local community and the primary freight routes north, south and east, to and from the Geraldton Port are met safely and efficiently.

The existing transport network has difficulty meeting these needs, as problems with traffic management, access, safety, noise and future land development are currently experienced.

To ensure safe and efficient long-term access to the port, and to reduce the negative impact of freight vehicles on residential and commercial areas, future land development and tourism, an alternative heavy haulage road and rail system must be developed.

Community Benefits

The construction of the Southern Transport Corridor will have many benefits for the local community and industry within both Geraldton and the Mid West region.

Delivering the Project

Stage One of the project has recently received State Government funding.

Main Roads will award and manage a design and construct contract to build Stage One of the Southern Transport Corridor. Tenders for the design and construct contract will be advertised in July 2002 with the contract expected to be awarded to the successful contractor in March 2003.

It is expected that work to construct Stage One of the project will be completed by the end of 2005.



For further information please contact:

Mark Pasalich
Project Manager Major Projects
Phone: 9323 4242 Fax: 9323 4309
Email: mark.pasalich@mainroads.wa.gov.au

Tammy Mitchell
Community Relations
Phone: 9343 5030 / 0419 918 168 Fax: 9343 5030
Email: tmitchell@essentialprojects.com.au

Tim Langford
Mid West Region
Phone: 9956 1200 Fax: 9956 1240
Email: tim.langford@mainroads.wa.gov.au