

Leach Highway Fremantle Upgrade Project

GENERAL INFORMATION

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this project needed now?

Currently, High Street between Stirling Highway and Carrington Street is of relatively poor standard compared to that of the other sections of the route, namely Stirling and Leach Highways. The integrity of the overall route is lowered due to reduced freight efficiency, increased potential for road crashes, excessive traffic noise levels and incompatibility with abutting land use.

The upgrade is considered a high priority to both the State and Commonwealth Governments.

How will this project benefit the community?

The benefits of the Project to the community include:

- Reduced crash rate and a reduction in the severity of crashes;
- Improved safety for all vehicles travelling alongside larger commercial vehicles;
- Reduced delays through an increase in efficiency at the three signalised intersections – Marmion Street and Stirling Highway; Stirling Highway and High Street; and Leach Highway and Carrington Street;
- Improved traffic efficiency associated with the Fremantle Inner Harbour;
- Improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists;
- Improved amenity for access and streetscaping; and
- Reduced traffic noise currently experienced by residences fronting High Street.

What happened to the Fremantle Eastern Bypass?

In 2004, the State Government oversaw the removal of the Fremantle Eastern Bypass reservation from the Metropolitan Region Scheme. This was broadly based on the need to consider the best long term regional interest, taking into account long term planning requirements,

future growth in the region and consideration of innovative and alternative solutions to road based travel.

Disposal of the land reserved for the Fremantle Eastern Bypass is now complete and private development has subsequently occurred. As a result of the redevelopment, the Fremantle Eastern Bypass will not be constructed.

How did Main Roads identify the preferred option?

A wide range of different options for the transport route was considered during the High Street Fremantle Upgrade Project planning studies Conducted by the Department of Transport, Department of Planning and the former Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

The previous Departments managing the project consulted with the community and property owners regarding the proposed road alignment to identify a preferred alignment option.

Main Roads took ownership of the Project late 2011 and since then has been working in collaboration with the City of Fremantle and Elected Members to refine the concept design. The collaboration process identified and investigated numerous elements of the design to provide a solution that would be acceptable to all stakeholders.

How will this project reduce congestion?

The most heavily trafficked route will now get priority in a more efficiently organised and safe intersection layout. Other movements will be safely accommodated with a mix of signalised intersection and give way controls.

What does the upgrade involve?

The Project consists of three components:

1. Upgrade the section of High Street between Carrington Street and Stirling Highway to a four lane dual carriageway standard, to be known as 'Leach Highway' with a six lane road reserve for future proofing.
2. Realignment of the High Street/Stirling Highway intersection will provide both continuity and priority to the major traffic movements.



3. Upgrade pedestrian and cyclist access along the route from Marmion Street to Carrington Street including at the major intersections.

When will construction start?

The Commonwealth Government's has committed funding to allow construction of the Leach Highway to commence by 2015. Main Roads is currently undertaking all planning and development activities in accordance with a schedule that will satisfy that commitment, subject to the obtaining of environmental and other approvals.

When will it be completed?

A construction period of approximately 65 weeks is anticipated and current planning is for construction to be complete by December 2016.

How is the project funded?

The Project is equally funded by the State and Federal Governments. The Federal funding component was announced in May 2013; and the State component was announced in the recent State Budget, August 2013. The total Project budget is \$118m.

Is there any land that still needs to be acquired?

The project will require some land acquisition, however Main Roads with the City of Fremantle have been investigating opportunities to minimise the impact on properties. The Western Australian Government has purchased a number of properties along High Street in preparation for this project. However, some land along High Street is still to be acquired, and this is currently under negotiation. No additional privately owned properties are required.

A small parcel of land owned by the State Government will be required for the project. An amendment to the MRS is required as part of the land acquisition process.

How can I have input into the project and how will my comments be used?

Main Roads is committed to keeping you informed about the progress of the Project.

A range of concerns have been previously raised by community members and local groups. Main Roads intends to address these concerns by working closely with the community and other stakeholders prior to and during construction.

Main Roads is forming a Community Focus Group (CFG) by Expression of Interest, to assist and provide input into the preliminary design on elements such as public art, amenity walls and pedestrian and cycling facilities.

A Community Engagement Program is currently being developed and information about the program will soon be available on the Main Roads Project webpage [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/Projects/Urban_Projects/Leach Highway \(High Street\) Fremantle Upgrade Project](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/Projects/Urban_Projects/Leach_Highway_(High_Street)_Fremantle_Upgrade_Project).

The program will outline the engagement process and dates of engagement activities including a Public Information /Session scheduled for September 2013.

What are the next steps? How can I get more information on the Project?

Up-to-date project information (including Newsletters, Project Updates, Frequently Asked Questions and Factsheets) will be readily available via the Project webpage [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/Projects/Urban_Projects/Leach Highway \(High Street\) Fremantle Upgrade Project](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/Projects/Urban_Projects/Leach_Highway_(High_Street)_Fremantle_Upgrade_Project).

More information

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