



Tonkin Highway Corridor - Roe Highway to Kelvin Road

Planning and development is well underway to upgrade Tonkin Highway south of Roe Highway. When completed, the section between Roe Highway and Kelvin Road will be widened, and the intersection at Hale Road, Welshpool Road and Kelvin Road will be upgraded, improving safety and efficiencies for commuters in the area. This update focuses on how community feedback has helped us develop an improved option for traffic heading to the city from Hale Road.

The \$366 million Tonkin Highway Interchanges project is jointly funded by the Australian Government (\$293 million) and the State Government (\$73 million).

Tonkin Highway and Hale Road Intersection

Background

Initial planning at this intersection leading up to mid-2019 determined that:

- a bridge would be built to take Tonkin Highway over Hale Road with no access ramps to and from Hale Road; and
- Hale Road would stay open to allow local traffic to easily travel between Forrestfield and Wattle Grove.

However, the local community told us they were concerned about not being able to access Tonkin Highway from Hale Road. After reviewing various options, we changed the design in May 2020 to include north-facing ramps. The ramps allowed vehicles to get on and off Tonkin Highway at Hale Road to travel to and from the city, which is what the majority of traffic does at this intersection.

This updated design was reviewed and we found vehicles could not safely enter Tonkin Highway from Hale Road at 100 km/hr. There was not enough space to allow safe weaving movements – that is, traffic coming from Hale Road wanting to enter Tonkin Highway towards the city, and northbound Tonkin Highway traffic wanting to exit to Roe Highway.

We advised community members who were concerned about having to travel through the Roe Highway signals that we would do further traffic modelling to determine the efficiency of this solution.

What did we find?

This further work found that the Roe Highway signalised intersection already has poor levels of service at peak travel times, so we looked at how we could improve this. This included adjusting signal timings, and reviewing the synchronisation of signals at Hale Road and Roe Highway. This work showed that:

- When the project is finished, Forrestfield and Wattle Grove residents travelling from Hale Road during the morning peak would be delayed at the Roe Highway signals longer than the current Tonkin Highway and Hale Road intersection (at the present time); and
- Changing signal timings to reduce this delay would increase travel time for vehicles travelling along Roe Highway through the intersection (ie. delaying a significantly larger number of Roe Highway users).

To address this, we now have an improved concept that connects directly to Tonkin Highway northbound from Hale Road using a road alongside the Highway (like those seen on the west side of Tonkin Highway between Horrie Miller Drive and Leach Highway).

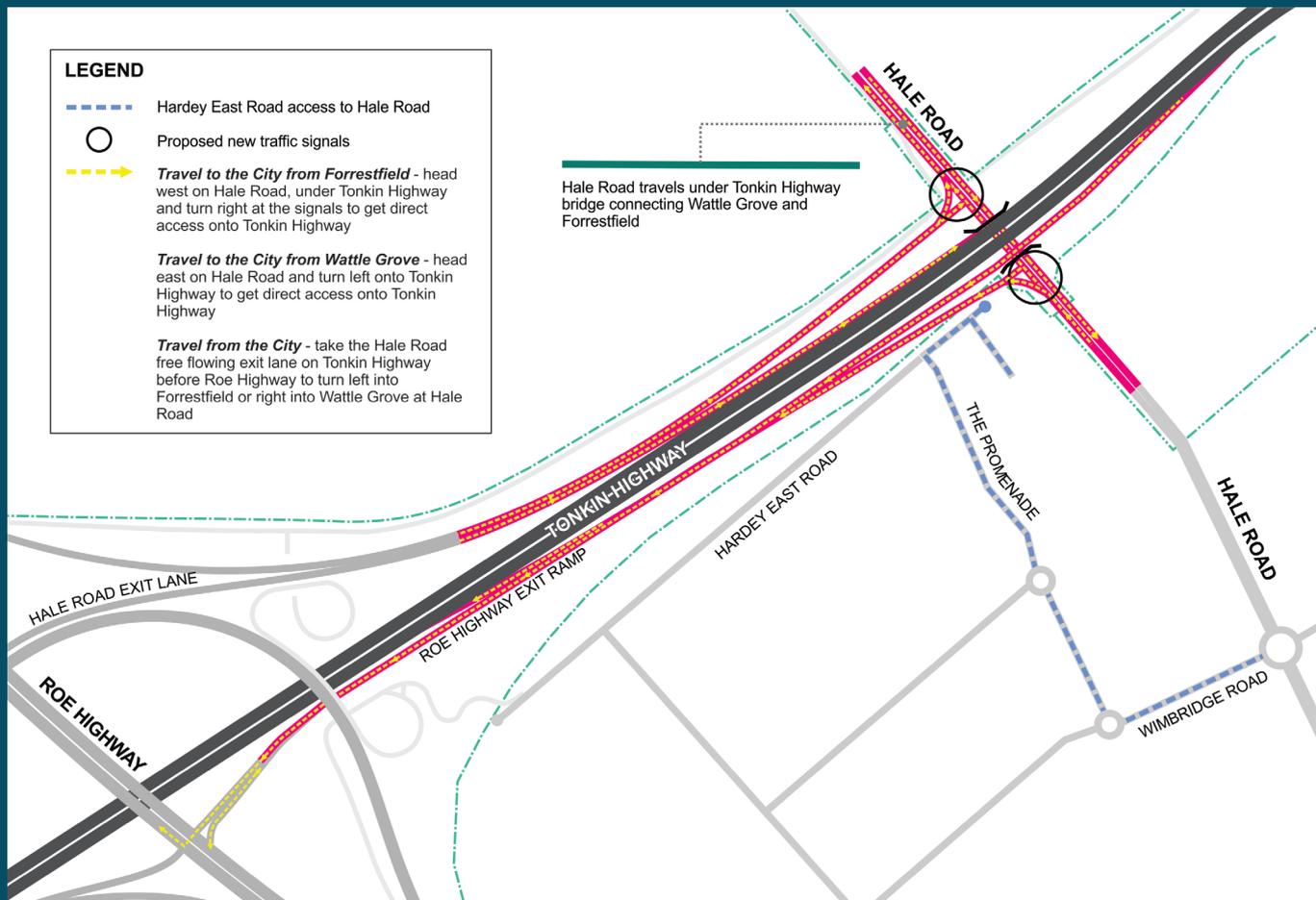
This road will be used by vehicles coming out of Hale Road heading to Tonkin Highway, and by vehicles using Tonkin Highway to get to Roe Highway.

Better access with less delays

We thank the community for their help in developing the revised plan that will improve safety and travel times by:

- Providing direct access onto Tonkin Highway northbound from Hale Road to head to Perth without stopping at the Roe Highway signals. While a lower speed is needed for safety, vehicles will get onto Tonkin Highway quicker (Tonkin Highway will travel over Hale Road, so Hale Road traffic will not stop for vehicles on Tonkin Highway);
- Installing default green signals on Hale Road at north-facing ramp intersections. This means the red signal is only triggered red by right-turn movements travelling north – from Forrestfield turning right onto the ramp to the city, and from the city turning right to Wattle Grove, allowing more green time on Hale Road between Forrestfield and Wattle Grove;
- Improving safety for the current Roe Highway traffic southbound exiting at Hale Road. The currently banned right-turn movement will be allowed. This was not allowed previously due to traffic from Roe Highway crossing multiple Tonkin Highway lanes in a short distance to turn right into Hale Road to get to Wattle Grove; and
- Addressing community concerns regarding the flyover, which would restrict access out of Wattle Grove and Forrestfield in an emergency situation.

Updated design of Tonkin Highway and Hale Road intersection



This new design concept uses a lower speed limit on the side road to provide direct access to Tonkin Highway northbound from Hale Road without compromising safety.

Traffic coming from areas south of Hale Road and Tonkin Highway will not be stopped by traffic entering the highway from Forrestfield and Wattle Grove. Local traffic travelling between Wattle Grove and Forrestfield (east and west) will enjoy significantly improved travel times.

Your community feedback has helped us provide:

- Access to and from the City at Hale Road; and
- A new direct connection onto Tonkin Highway from Hale Road to head to the City (ie. no need to travel through the Roe Highway signals to get onto Tonkin Highway).

What's next?

A video outlining the design at Tonkin Highway at its intersections with Hale Road and Welshpool Road is now available.

In addition, we are seeking your input into our feedback survey, focusing on traffic-related matters, and how people travel to and from the project area.

The Tonkin Highway Corridor project will be delivered under two contracts:

- The first contract includes the intersections along Tonkin Highway at Hale Road and Welshpool Road. The Request for Proposals for construction is expected commence mid-2022.
- The second contract includes Tonkin Highway and Kelvin Road.

Environmental referrals are under assessment for the first contract, with recommendations anticipated in mid-2022. The public comment period for the Federal environmental assessment has now closed. The public comment period for the State environmental assessment is anticipated in late-2021.

Want more information?

Project information is available at www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/projects by emailing enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au or phoning 138 138. You can also register for project updates by heading to our project page and subscribing for email updates.

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