

News release - Stephen Mullighan

Major milestone for \$620 million Darlington Upgrade Project

[Stephen Mullighan](#) November 24, 2017

The first of two 3000-tonne bridges will be moved into position on the Darlington Upgrade Project this weekend in an Australian-first for a civil construction project of this scale.

Over the past four months, the 180-metre long bridge has been constructed on land between the Southern Expressway and Main South Road, near Marion Road.

The bridge will be transported and manoeuvred into place using 'self-propelled modular transporters', similar to remote controlled trailers, which will travel at approximately 100-metres an hour.

Project consortium Gateway South adopted the innovative construction method to substantially reduce traffic impacts for the project.

If the bridge was constructed in its final position, at least seven closures of the Southern Expressway and Main South Road would have been required.

This has been reduced to a single closure this weekend for the bridge to be moved into position.

The bridge is one of two being built using this construction method, each longer than Adelaide Oval.

Background

The installation of this bridge, when complete, will deliver northbound Main South Road traffic over the Southern Expressway and onto local surface roads

The temporary road closures will begin at 8pm tonight with roads reopening at 6am on Monday morning.

Main South Road will be closed between Marion Road and Flinders Drive, with vehicles detoured via Marion and Sturt roads.

One lane of southbound traffic will remain open to provide access to local properties and businesses on the south eastern side of South Road.

The South Road ramps of the Southern Expressway will also be closed, with vehicles detoured via Marion Road.

A second bridge is being built using the same method and will be installed next year. It will deliver northbound Main South Road traffic over the Southern Expressway to the 3.3 kilometre non-stop lowered motorway.

In total, eight bridges will be built for the Darlington Upgrade Project including:

- Ayliffes Road
- Tonsley Boulevard
- Over the Sturt River
- Flinders Drive
- Sturt Road
- Mimosa Terrace and Sutton Road

Five sets of traffic lights will be bypassed through the project, which is supporting approximately 370 jobs a year during construction.

The \$620 million Darlington Upgrade is being funded on an 80:20 basis with the Federal Government.

For more information visit the Darlington Upgrade [website](#).

Quotes attributable to Transport and Infrastructure Minister Stephen Mullighan

Almost 100,000 vehicles travel through the Main South Road and Sturt Road intersection on average every day, including 73,000 which use this part of Main South Road.

One of the benefits of this construction method is that we're dramatically reducing the impact of construction on these motorists.

Building these bridges off-site and moving them into position prevents us from having to close parts of the Southern Expressway and Main South Road on multiple occasions – we only have to do it once for each bridge.

This is a common construction method in other parts of the world, such as Europe and America, but it's the first time it has been used on a civil construction project of this size in Australia.

Some of the busiest intersections in Adelaide are located on this part of the North-South Corridor so these bridges will improve traffic flow and cut travel times for vehicles travelling in all directions.

When complete, the \$620 million Darlington Upgrade Project will make travelling on this part of the North-South Corridor much quicker and safer.