



Mitcham Hills Road Corridor Upgrade – Project Update

Project overview

The Australian and South Australian governments have jointly committed \$40 million (50:50 split) to undertake a number of improvements along the Mitcham Hills Road Corridor to improve safety and traffic flow along Old Belair Road.

- The Australian Government has committed \$20 million to upgrade the Old Belair Road and James Road junction and Old Belair Road (between Sheoak Road and Blythwood Road).
- The South Australian Government has committed \$20 million to the Mitcham Hills Road Corridor.

Community engagement is an important part of the planning, design and delivery stages of the project.

Community engagement

In February 2021, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) released the proposed concept designs for the following projects:

- Old Belair and James Road junction and Old Belair Road (between Sheoak Road and Blythwood Road)
- Main Road and Russell Street, Belair Road/Main Road and Sheoak Road, and Sheoak Road and Russell Street junctions.

The designs were developed in response to feedback received from the community during the early 2020 planning study phase of consultation.

Consultation on the concept designs commenced on 25 February 2021 and concluded on 7 May 2021.

During this period:

- the Department held two information sessions to meet the community and seek feedback;
- there was also an opportunity for the community to provide feedback via phone, email, website feedback form, Social Pinpoint online community engagement tool and hard copy feedback forms collected at the community information sessions;
- information about the proposed designs was sent to over 8,400 local households, businesses and those who signed up for project updates; and
- approximately 80 people attended over the two community information sessions.

What we heard during the recent consultation period

The Department received a total of 281 pieces of feedback during the consultation period undertaken from 25 February 2021 to 7 May 2021.

The community responses to the proposed concept designs were mixed, with more feedback received for the Old Belair Road and James Road junction.

The key themes raised, and how frequently they were raised, are outlined over the page.

We will continue to engage with stakeholders and the community to inform the detailed designs for the projects and throughout their delivery.

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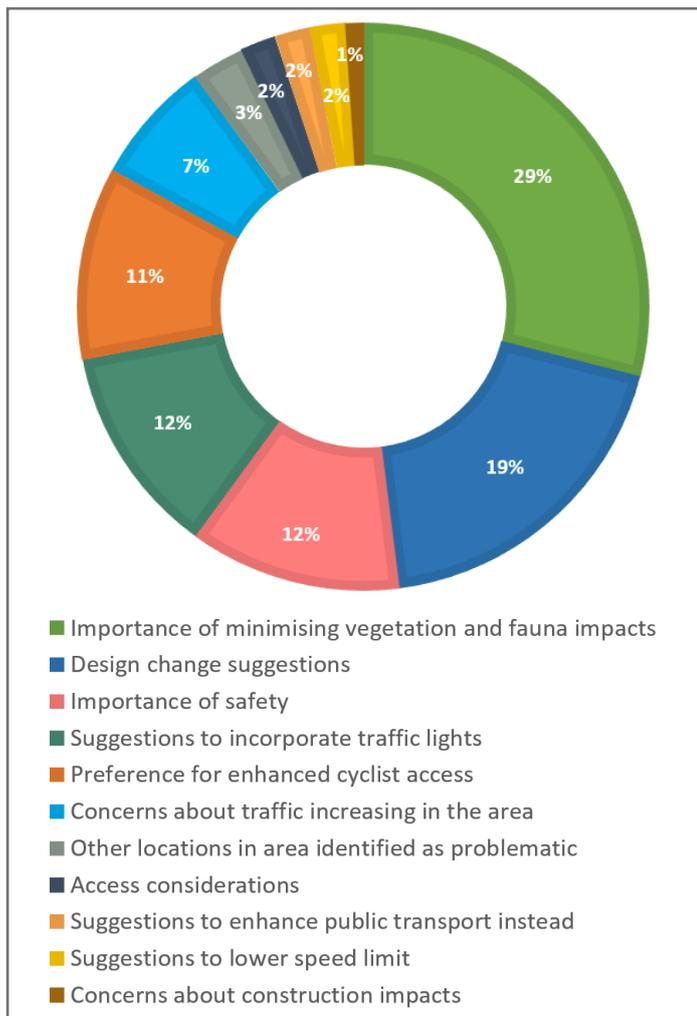


Government
of South Australia

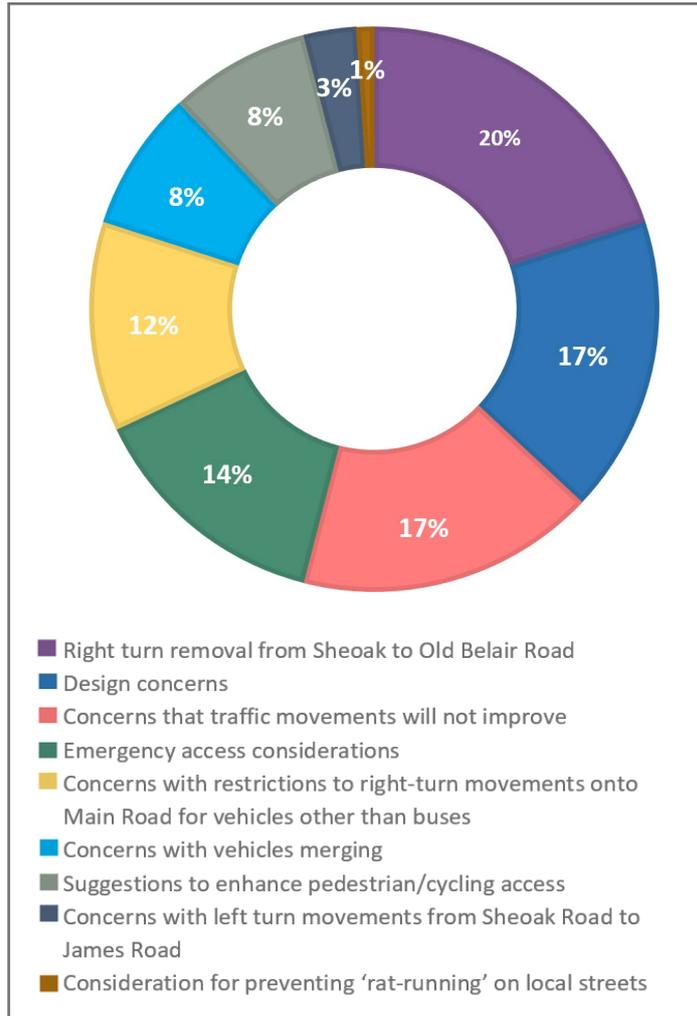


**BUILDING
WHAT MATTERS**

Old Belair and James Road junction and Old Belair Road (between Sheoak Road and Blythwood Road)



Main Road and Russell Street, Main Road/Belair Road and Sheoak Road, and Sheoak Road and Russell Street junctions



Design update

Key changes being made to the **Old Belair and James Road junction** design in response to community feedback include:

- decreasing the size of the roundabout to minimise the overall footprint of the project; and
- reducing the impact on surrounding vegetation.

Based on the design being 70% complete, approximately 147 native trees are identified for either pruning or removal. This includes approximately 42 Grey Box trees. These impacts will be managed in accordance with legislative requirements.

Efforts will continue to be made throughout the design and construction phase to reduce impacts to vegetation where possible.

The Department will also continue to liaise with all stakeholders to identify opportunities for offsetting the vegetation impacts through the development of a landscape plan.

The inclusion of traffic lights was considered but determined not an appropriate solution. Traffic modelling indicated traffic lights at the junction would increase average road user delays. They would also increase the risk of rear end crashes on Old Belair Road as a result of queueing on Old Belair Road, particularly to the south in the morning peak. The roundabout is not expected to increase traffic using Old Belair Road.

The design includes improved access for walking and cycling, including upgrades to allow cyclists and pedestrians to cross Old Belair Road and connect to the trails within Randell Park Reserve.

An updated design will be made available shortly once finalised.

The **Main Road and Russell Street, Main Road/Belair Road and Sheoak Road, and Sheoak Road and Russell Street junctions** design remains primarily as presented during the consultation period due to the site limitations. Opportunities to minimise vegetation and land impacts continue to be investigated.

Taking a corridor-wide approach

Shepherds Hill Road, Brighton Parade and Waite Street intersection is a third project proposed for the corridor. Further information about the proposed designs for this project will be sent out shortly for consultation.

Traffic assessments have determined:

- All three projects are required to be delivered to improve safety and manage access issues in the area;
- The network and safety benefits are most substantial for the **Old Belair and James Road junction**. As such, this upgrade is planned to be delivered first.

Feedback has also been received by some members of the community about Laffers Road. Whilst there is currently no funding available for an upgrade at this location, the Department will also be seeking feedback from the community to better understand concerns about this location.

Construction timing

Construction work will be staged to minimise the impact on road users during the works.

Construction on the **Old Belair and James Road junction** is planned to start before the end of the year and be complete in the second half of 2022, weather permitting.

Work on the **Main Road and Russell Street, Main Road/Belair Road and Sheoak Road, and Sheoak Road and Russell Street junctions** is planned to start mid 2022 and be complete mid 2023, weather permitting.

Further information

If you have any questions or would like to register for project updates (including an invitation to the upcoming drop-in community information sessions) please:

- visit: www.dit.sa.gov.au/mitchamhills
- email: dit.communityrelations@sa.gov.au
- telephone: 1300 794 880

Upcoming drop – in community information sessions

You are invited to a Mitcham Hills drop-in community information session to:

- talk to the project team and ask any questions you may have about this update; and
- view the proposed upgrade options for the Shepherds Hill Road, Brighton Parade and Waite Street Intersection and share your feedback.

When: Wednesday, 17 November 2021

Session 1: between 4pm and 5:30pm

Session 2: between 6pm and 7:30pm

Saturday, 20 November 2021

Session 1: between 10am and 11:30am

Session 2: between noon and 1:30pm

Location: Blackwood Bowling Club

10 Simla Parade, Blackwood SA 5051

To ensure COVID-19 physical distancing requirements are met, attendees must register for one of two allocated time slots prior to attending the information session.

Registration forms can be completed by visiting the project website or by contacting the project engagement team on the details below.

- visit: www.dit.sa.gov.au/mitchamhills
- email: dit.communityrelations@sa.gov.au
- telephone: 1300 794 880