introducing the northern expressway

Australian Government

AUSLINK
Building our National Transport Future

Government of South Australia

Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure
What is the Northern Expressway?

The Northern Expressway will be a new road initially joining the Sturt Highway to Port Wakefield Road – and then linking to the Port River Expressway. It will involve:

- the construction of a new, two-way expressway standard road between Gawler and Port Wakefield Road (approximately 23 kilometres), and
- an upgrade of Port Wakefield Road from north of Taylor Road to the Salisbury Highway (10 kilometres) to cater for future traffic volumes.

The Northern Expressway project is a joint initiative by the Australian and South Australian Governments under the AusLink program. It will be the largest road construction project in the state since the 1960s.

Why do we need the expressway?

The aim of the Northern Expressway is to:

- improve the northern regional economy, and
- improve safety and reduce the environmental impact of freight transport and commuter traffic on suburban areas and regional communities.

The Northern Expressway will reduce driving time and increase safety for travellers from the Mid-North, Riverland and regional communities. People who commute between Gawler and the Port of Adelaide, and the western and southern suburbs of Adelaide will also benefit.

The route will reduce truck movements along Main North Road and Salisbury Highway. The expressway will improve access to Adelaide for freight transport traveling via the Sturt Highway. This includes freight coming from key areas such as the Barossa Valley and the Riverland. Once linked with the Port River Expressway, there will be predicted travel time savings of up to 20 minutes between the Sturt Highway at Gawler and the Port of Adelaide – South Australia’s main shipping port.

The Northern Expressway contributes to AusLink’s key objective of assisting national economic and social development aimed at improving the efficiency, safety and reliability of the national transport network. This includes improving freight efficiency and reducing travel time between Gawler and Outer Harbor.

It will also contribute towards the following targets in South Australia’s Strategic Plan:

- promoting economic growth
- expanding export potential for the State
- providing strategic infrastructure
- providing infrastructure to support communities in regions.

What are the key features?

Gawler to Port Wakefield Road section:

- four lane, two-way expressway with divided roadway
- speed limit of 110km/hr
- full speed connection at Gawler, linking with the Gawler by-pass
- entry to the expressway via interchanges
- overpasses across the expressway
- changes to the road network

Upgrade to Port Wakefield Road section (Taylor Road to Salisbury Highway):

- additional traffic lanes on Port Wakefield Road in some sections
- improvements to some junctions
- install new and upgrade existing traffic lights to increase capacity
- improvements to the Salisbury Highway/Port Wakefield Road bridge
- improve safety by removing some right turn access points by: closing some median openings, providing left in/left out arrangements for connecting roads, and adjusting U-turn facilities.
What are the benefits?

The Northern Expressway will:

- provide significant economic benefits to the state
- improve traffic conditions for local residents in Angle Vale and the northern suburbs near Main North Road
- make roads safer by reducing freight, in particular Angle Vale and Heaslip Roads
- provide a quicker and safer connection with suburban destinations such as Adelaide Airport, shopping centres, sports stadiums, beaches, residences and businesses
- connect to the new Port River Expressway, allowing drivers to use on-off connections at South Road and Hanson Road as well as Port Adelaide
- allow travellers, and particularly freight traffic, to avoid any traffic congestion along the existing Main North Road
- help to reduce vehicle pollution emissions due to smoother traffic flow along the Northern Expressway and Main North Road.

Where will the expressway go?

The proposed route for the Northern Expressway is shown on the inside of this brochure. The proposed route was developed as a result of a planning study which has been ongoing since 2003. The study considered a variety of routes and looked at how to:

- improve safety for all road users
- improve freight efficiencies
- reduce effects on local and regional traffic networks
- consider the needs of landowners and local residents
- reduce effects on land productivity
- reduce effects on indigenous and non-indigenous heritage sites
- avoid splitting up communities
- reduce environmental effects such as changes to noise, air and water quality.

Contributors to the planning process included State and Australian government departments, local councils, industry and local business organisation representatives. Community consultation on the proposed route is an important next step. The proposed route will now undergo an environmental assessment.

Following this assessment, a final decision on the proposed route will be made. The proposed project is subject to the finalisation of agreed funding between the State and Australian governments.
The Northern Expressway is proposed to connect Adelaide with the Gawler Region, enhancing regional connectivity and reducing commute times.

The typical cross section of the Northern Expressway includes:
- Two lanes in each direction
- Vegetated median
- Drainage system
- Upgrade of existing intersections
- New traffic signals

Key features include:
- Modify Salisbury Highway bridge
- New traffic signals at Ryans Road
- Arterial road closures

The map indicates the proposed route with notable landmarks such as Salisbury Highway, Port Wakefield Road, and Gawkler River.
Route:

- Upgrade traffic signals at Bolivar Road
- Upgrade to traffic signals at Waterloo Corner Road
- New traffic signals
- Expressway bridge over railway & Taylor Road
- New expressway bridge over railway line & Taylor Road
- Realigned Womma Road
Access to/exit from Northern Expressway from Heaslip & Womma Road overpass

South-bound access onto & north-bound exit off Expressway

Overpass at Angle Vale Road
Overpass at Two Wells Road

Northern Expressway connects at Gawler bypass

Two-way access to Northern Expressway from Gawler bypass via interchange
How will environmental effects be considered?

An environmental assessment has commenced and will continue during the community engagement process. It will identify and quantify the environmental, social and economic effects of the Northern Expressway proposal. The investigations will relate to technical areas such as:

- noise
- water quality and hydrology
- air quality
- socio-economic impact
- cultural heritage
- land use and planning
- flora and fauna
- traffic and transport
- visual effect
- and landscaping
- infrastructure

Project team members working in the area will be clearly identified. Their presence will not mean that any particular property is to be affected by the project.

The environmental report will describe the Northern Expressway, summarise its effects and describe the proposed ways to avoid or minimise any adverse effects. It will be available for public comment in the first half of 2007. Comments received from the community will be considered and inform any revision of the concept design. A supplementary report document will also be prepared.

What happens if the proposed route goes through my property?

Some properties will need to be purchased by the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI) so that the Northern Expressway can be constructed. The Department is authorised under the Highways Act 1926 to acquire land required for road development purposes.

Approved guidelines will be followed when contact is made with potentially affected property owners or occupiers. Staff of DTEI will individually contact these people. Information about property owner rights will be provided.

If you believe that your property might be acquired, and you have not yet been contacted directly, then please contact the Northern Expressway team on 1300 658 621.

For more information

Further information about the project will be available on our website:
www.northernexpressway.sa.gov.au or
Email northernexpressway@sa.gov.au

Please contact us if you would like more information or would like to provide input into the environmental assessment process.

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