

Traffic and transport

Factsheet



Artist's impression: Boyd Street, Tugun.



Artist's impression: Terminal Drive, Bilinga.

Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 will deliver a 13 kilometre extension south of Light Rail Stage 3, linking Burleigh Heads to Coolangatta, via the Gold Coast Airport. It will provide 14 stations as identified through the Burleigh Heads to Tugun and Tugun to Coolangatta Multi-modal Corridor Studies.

The Queensland Government has committed \$3.7 million to undertake a preliminary business case for Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4, along with City of Gold Coast's financial contribution of \$670,000. An additional \$1.83 million has been committed by City of Gold Coast, bringing the City's total commitment to the preliminary business case to \$2.5 million and the total project investment to \$6.2 million.



The Gold Coast's population is set to grow to more than 900,000 by 2041, with 80 per cent of this growth expected to occur in existing urban areas with the majority of growth expected in existing centres and the urban core. (Source: ShapingSEQ Regional Plan 2017)

Public transport use on the Gold Coast Traffic analysis

- Around 88 per cent of all trips on the Gold Coast are by private vehicle resulting in significant road congestion and poor journey reliability (Source: Gold Coast City Transport Strategy 2031)
- The number of people using public transport on the Gold Coast continues to grow. Following the opening of Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 in 2017, there was a 61.8 per cent increase in average number of trips being taken per day during the period of 2014 to 2019
- Since 2014, 63 million passengers have travelled on the Gold Coast Light Rail (Source: Translink ticketing data)
- Pre-COVID-19, overall public transport use on the Gold Coast has increased by 50 per cent since the introduction of Light Rail in 2014. (Source: Translink ticketing data)
- On the Gold Coast, Light Rail has become the best performing mode with 93 per cent patronage of the same period pre-COVID (in June 2022) as opposed to 88 per cent for buses (Source: Translink ticketing data).

Central East-West Passenger Transport Study

The Department of Transport and Main Roads and City of Gold Coast are currently conducting a planning study of the central Gold Coast, to identify options for a rapid passenger transport services linking the Light Rail in the east with the heavy rail in the west.

Traffic volumes along the southern Gold Coast Highway have steadily increased and will continue to rise as the population increases. Car dependency along the Gold Coast Highway is placing pressure on the existing road network and there are practical constraints on the ability to significantly expand the Gold Coast Highway.

In 2019, the Gold Coast Highway between Kitchener Street and Boyd Street carried an average of 39,000 vehicles per day. By 2041 traffic volumes for the same section are estimated to increase by 85 per cent, carrying up to 74,900 vehicles per day.

South of Boyd Street traffic volumes are estimated to increase by 62 per cent (from 40,400 vehicle trips per day in 2019 to 65,600 in 2041) and by 156 per cent south of the Gold Coast Airport (to 37,900 private vehicle trips per day in 2041).

Coolangatta Road and Musgrave Street in Kirra each increase by around 50 per cent with volumes approximately 17,900 vehicles per day on each corridor.

These transport analyses illustrate that without enhanced public transport, there will be substantial traffic growth in the network and reinforce the opportunity that public transport could play in managing the growth in transport demand on the southern Gold Coast and reducing pressure on the road network by 2041.



Delivering benefits

The Gold Coast Highway and the Pacific Motorway M1 perform key north to south road functions for the southern Gold Coast.

The *Gold Coast Highway (Burleigh Heads to Tugun) Multi-modal Corridor Study* confirmed that the M1 (Varsity Lakes to Tugun) upgrade will significantly improve accessibility to and from Palm Beach via new connections to the M1 at Nineteenth Avenue, once complete.

The Varsity Lakes to Tugun upgrade will provide through traffic with a viable alternative, reducing demand on the Gold Coast Highway. This provides an opportunity to redesign the Gold Coast Highway as a more multi-modal transport corridor.

The Gold Coast Highway (Tugun to Coolangatta) Corridor Study identified the opportunity for onward extension options for Light Rail to continue into Tweed Shire. TMR continue to work collaboratively with Transport for NSW to determine and investigate these opportunities.



Parking

Parking plays a significant role in the current transport network on the southern Gold Coast. The Corridor Studies included detailed traffic analyses to determine the number of traffic lanes, intersection configurations and performance of the Gold Coast Highway now and into the future.

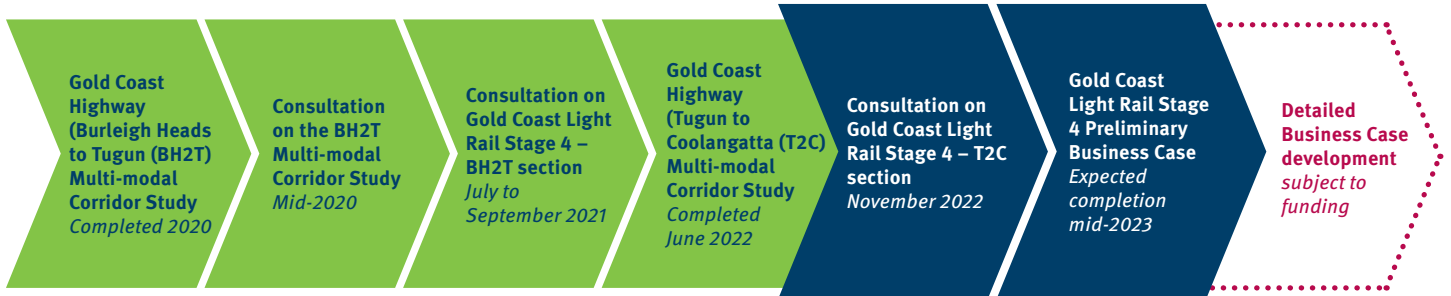
TMR and City of Gold Coast are continuing to work to understand the impacts and opportunities any proposed changes to the Gold Coast Highway will have on adjacent local roads and parking in the area. This involves additional comprehensive traffic modeling and transport planning investigations and these are being carried out as part of the preliminary business case.

Following community feedback on the Burleigh Heads to Tugun section, planning options are being reviewed to consider the retention of four traffic lanes through this section of the corridor. Community feedback will be used to inform planning to ensure parking along and adjacent to the Light Rail corridor continues to meet the needs of the community while supporting a more sustainable, multi-modal approach to travel. Any proposed changes will be further explored through consultation with the local community.

Project timeline

2020

2023



Get involved and have your say

We would like to hear your views and find out what is important to you. You are invited to participate in our community consultation program to find out more about planning for the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 and provide your input.

Provide your feedback online



Visit the interactive community consultation website to find out more about the project and provide your feedback.

Visit: www.tmr.qld.gov.au/gclr4



Talk to us in person

The project team will be holding community drop-in sessions to enable you to ask questions and provide face-to-face feedback on Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 planning.

Visit the website to find out drop-in session locations and times for community consultation for the Tugun to Coolangatta section.

Visit: www.tmr.qld.gov.au/gclr4

Contact us

If you would like further information about Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 or to register for updates, please contact the project team:

Phone: 1800 316 365*

Email: gclr4@tmr.qld.gov.au

*Check with your service provider for call costs.