November 2020

Pacific Motorway (M1) – Varsity Lakes to Tugun

Active transport

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the benefit of active transport connections?

Every time an active transport option is provided there is an opportunity to:

- increase our health, fitness and wellbeing
- improve our mobility and disability access
- reduce our impact on the environment
- make our transport system more efficient

Active transport plays a key role in connecting our diverse communities and helping to reduce congestion, while also leaving room on our roads for freight, courier and tourism industries that are critical to Queensland's economic prosperity.

How are active transport features decided in road upgrades?

The Queensland Government has strategies and plans in place to promote and improve active transport including:

- Cycling Strategy 2017-2027
- Walking Strategy 2019-2029
- Disability Service Plan 2017-2020

When designing state-controlled road upgrades, Transport and Main Roads refers to these key documents to help guide active transport solutions.

To assist with the planning of active transport facilities, Transport and Main Roads relies upon the Principal Cycle Network Plan (PCNP) which helps guide where active transport connections may be improved.

The PCNP uses research and data in decision-making on priority bike-riding routes and also helps guide the City of Gold Coast in their planning for active transport connectivity within the local road network.

The principal bike-riding routes outlined in the PCNP indicate the most important routes based on a 5-kilometre round trip to regional activity centres such as access to public transport, shopping centres and places of work. At these distances, bike-riding is a viable mode of travel.

The PCNP route maps also flag where these cycling links to activity hubs are missing, including on state-controlled and local roads.

For more detail on these strategies and plans, visit the Queensland Government's Travel and Transport web pages.

What active transport improvements are included in the VL2T upgrade?

Active transport connections have been a key feature in designing the M1 Varsity Lakes to Tugun (VL2T) upgrade and several improvements have been made to pedestrian, bike riding and disability options by:

- improving existing access wherever possible at key crossing locations:
    - widening paths
    - redirecting access points to safer locations
    - installing raised priority crossings
    - signalising pedestrian crossings at left-turn slip lanes
- constructing new dedicated and shared active transport paths to help connect missing links between activity hubs
- ensuring all crossing points have kerb ramps, and signalised crossings are fitted with audible tactile devices

Package A – Varsity Lakes to Burleigh

Active transport features in the section between Exit 85 Varsity Lakes and Exit 87 Burleigh:

- a new 3-metre-wide active transport path on the western side of the M1
- this dedicated path will start at the new northbound Exit 85 off-ramp to Old Coach Road and continue to the new Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) at Exit 87 Burleigh
- connecting the local road network with new paths through the Exit 87 Burleigh interchange from Oyster Creek Drive on the western side to Bermuda Street on the eastern side
- bike and pedestrian connections north of Exit 85 will be via the local road network
- the dedicated active transport path will continue south of Exit 87 to Exit 89 Tallebudgera on the western side of the motorway

Package B – Burleigh to Palm Beach (Nineteenth Avenue)

From Exit 87 Burleigh to Nineteenth Avenue active transport connections will provide:

- a new 3-metre-wide active transport path on the western side of the M1
- this dedicated path will connect from the new Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) at Exit 87 Burleigh and continue to the new interchange at Exit 89 Tallebudgera
- the new dedicated active transport path will transition to a shared bike and pedestrian path on the new western service road starting at Exit 89 and continuing through to KP McGrath Drive
- connections to the local road network with new paths through the Exit 89 Tallebudgera interchange to Tsipura Drive and Tallebudgera Creek Road
- improved approaches on either side of the existing pedestrian bridge across Tallebudgera Creek

Package C – Palm Beach (Nineteenth Avenue) to Tugun

From the Nineteenth Avenue overpass to Exit 95 Tugun, active transport opportunities will be enhanced by:

- connecting the shared active transport path on the western service road from Exit 89 Tallebudgera to KP McGrath Drive
- improving active transport connections across the Nineteenth Avenue overpass by linking to the new western service road at a signalised intersection and upgrading the approach paths either side of the overpass

- providing safer pedestrian access through the interchange at Exit 92 Palm Beach with raised priority crossings and traffic signals at the new western service road and KP McGrath Drive intersection
- upgrading the southbound off-ramp intersection at Exit 92 Palm Beach so that pedestrian movements will no longer cross free-flowing left-turn slip lanes
- relocating the northbound off-ramp at Exit 92 Palm Beach to the new signalised KP McGrath Drive and western service road intersection to provide a safer connection for active transport users from Palm Beach Avenue to Pines Lane, continuing past Elanora Skate Park and on to KP McGrath Drive south of Elanora State School
- widening the existing path along KP McGrath Drive to Guineas Creek Road
- improving the existing path under the motorway between Guineas Creek Road and Sarawak Avenue and connecting to the existing pedestrian bridge across Currumbin Creek

Are active transport connections included across interchanges?

The M1 Varsity Lakes to Tugun upgrade has included active transport features across all interchanges within the 10-kilometre upgrade to optimise and assist with connectivity across the motorway and into the local road network.

Active transport improvements are included at the following key crossing locations:

- Exit 85 Varsity Lakes
- Exit 87 Burleigh
- Exit 89 Tallebudgera
- Nineteenth Avenue overpass approaches
- KP McGrath Drive (north)
- Exit 92 Palm Beach
- KP McGrath Drive (south)
- Guineas Creek Road and Sarawak Avenue approaches

Where an active transport path is not provided as part of the upgrade, connectivity will continue to be via the local road network.

Can I still ride and walk on existing paths during construction?

Currently there is no dedicated active transport route immediately adjacent to the motorway in many sections of the 10-kilometre M1 Varsity Lakes to Tugun upgrade.

During construction work at each of the interchanges, active transport access will be accommodated wherever possible, however points of access and travel paths will change as work progresses.

It is important to note that in some areas there may be occasional short periods of time when pedestrian and cycling access is prohibited to ensure safety during certain construction activities.

People with disability and specific mobility needs should contact Transport and Main Roads to discuss their active transport connectivity requirements while the upgrade is underway. Contact the project team at your earliest opportunity.

When can I use the new active transport connections?

The VL2T upgrade will be delivered in three separate packages, however the full 10-kilometre upgrade will be completed by end 2023. This means that by mid-2021 all three packages will be in construction at the same time.

Wherever possible and when it is safe to do so, some active transport features may be progressively available for use, however if there is no available connection to an existing path – such as at an interchange that is still under construction – opening of active transport facilities may be delayed until that package of work is completed.

What access improvements will be made for people with disabilities?

Mobility devices, such as wheelchairs and mobility scooters are an essential part of daily life for people with a mobility impairment. Not only do they improve access to everyday services, but they can also greatly enhance an individual's quality of life.

Pedestrian and bike paths included in the M1 Varsity Lakes to Tugun upgrade have been designed using the *Austroads Guide to Road Design and Traffic Management*.

Features of the upgrade to improve pedestrian and mobility safety include such things as:

- audio tactile devices at signalised intersections
- kerb ramps at all key crossing locations
- mid-block pedestrian refuges on local roads near connecting interchanges

People with disability and specific mobility needs should contact Transport and Main Roads to discuss their active transport connectivity requirements while the upgrade is underway.

Why is a veloway not included in the upgrade?

A veloway is generally designed for bike riders only to provide a dedicated link to missing commuter connections.

Many of the active transport connections throughout the VL2T upgrade have been designed for all forms of active transport – commuter and leisure bike riders, pedestrians, people with prams, mobility scooters and wheelchairs.

The new 3-metre wide path on the western side of the M1 between Varsity Lakes (Exit 85) and Tallebudgera (Exit 89) provides a four-kilometre pathway dedicated to all forms of active transport. Connectivity south of Exit 89 continues along the new western service road and connects to a new intersection at Nineteenth Avenue and further south to Palm Beach Avenue and KP McGrath Drive.

How can I walk or ride to Varsity Lakes train station?

The new active transport pathways will provide connections that are not currently available to pedestrians and bike riders.

The new 3-metre wide path on the western side of the M1 between Varsity Lakes (Exit 85) and Tallebudgera (Exit 89) provides a 4-kilometre pathway dedicated to all forms of active transport.

This pathway will be a key route for locals to ride and walk to Varsity Lakes train station, and where it ends at the new signalised intersection on Old Coach Road, a connection continues through local roads.

The newly opened Stapley Drive bridge, as part of the M1 Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes upgrade, now also provides improved access across the motorway to the train station.

Will active transport connections be included south of Currumbin Creek?

Connectivity for active transport between Currumbin Creek and Tugun (Exit 95) was considered as part of the design for the VL2T upgrade.

Two options were assessed via:

1. the existing local road paths along Mitchell Avenue
2. a new dedicated path directly linking the existing Currumbin Creek pedestrian bridge to the existing Mitchell Avenue Reserve path adjacent to the M1

Option 2 required widening into Saltwater Creek because the waterway runs parallel with the M1 embankment before crossing under the motorway, as well as additional removal of the surrounding mature trees.

Given that environmental impact assessments identified Saltwater Creek as an aquifer with many environmental qualities and, because the VL2T project team has committed to minimising environmental disruptions wherever possible, installing a new active transport connection in this area was not considered feasible. This decision was further underpinned by the already viable Option 1 connection available through the existing Mitchell Avenue local road paths.

What new active transport features are included in my street?

Active transport paths in urban streets are the responsibility of the City of Gold Coast. For further information on connections via the local road network contact Council via email at mail@goldcoast.qld.gov.au or call 1300 465 326.

Where can I get more information?

For further information on active transport features of the M1 Varsity Lakes to Tugun upgrade, contact the project team on the details below.

Phone:	1800 799 824 – free call from any landline (9am–5pm, Monday to Friday)
Email:	VL2T@tmr.qld.gov.au
Web:	www.tmr.qld.gov.au
Post:	Department of Transport and Main Roads PO Box 442, Nerang QLD 4211

For assisted calls contact:

Interpreter service:	13 14 50
TTY/voice calls:	13 36 77
Speak & Listen:	1300 555 727
SMS relay:	0423 677 767
Email:	helpdesk@relayservice.com.au