Welcome to the December edition of LinQed, the final light rail project newsletter for 2012! The GoldLinQ consortium has been out in the community as work continues on the Design and Construction phase of this city-changing project.

In this edition of LinQed you will find details of the first round of Community Grants undertaken by GoldLinQ’s Design and Construction partners McConnell Dowell (MacDow) and Bombardier Transportation (BT). GoldLinQ Chairman John Witheriff outlines measures being taken to support businesses along the light rail corridor as part of the Love Our City campaign, and how the action of all Gold Coasters during construction is vital to the city’s future.

Details of construction milestones achieved to date are included along with a sneak peek at the locally-designed uniforms that will be worn by staff when operations commence in 2014. GoldLinQ is working in partnership with the state and federal governments and the Gold Coast City Council to deliver a world-class public transport system for the Gold Coast.

If you would like to know more about the project, please send your story suggestions to information@goldlinq.com.au. You can keep up-to-date with the progress of construction through the website at www.goldlinq.com.au or call the project hotline on 1800 967 377.*

The Gold Coast light rail team would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. Happy reading!
Over the last 12 months we have seen the Gold Coast light rail begin to take shape. The three-year construction program is advancing and GoldLinQ is actively engaging with the community and local businesses during this critical phase for the project. Light rail is a city-changing project for the Gold Coast. In addition to the positive public transport outcomes, we are rebuilding the city’s underground services to enable it to grow for at least the next 50 years. While there are challenges to overcome during construction, the benefits will be evident for decades to come.

Public transport infrastructure plays an essential role in the function of a modern city allowing workers, residents and tourists to move between precincts easily and affordably. A downturn in construction activity, decrease in tourism numbers and slowing of population growth has taken a toll on the city’s economy in recent years. Major projects that create jobs, improve liveability and inject millions into the city are vital at this time.

The Love Our City campaign was launched earlier this year to encourage support for Gold Coast businesses with particular emphasis on those along the light rail corridor where construction is taking place.

GoldLinQ is maintaining pedestrian access during construction so the best way to support these businesses is to shop, eat or play locally. A simple meal at a favourite restaurant in Surfers Paradise, a coffee in Broadbeach or trying somewhere new in Southport goes a long way. In this spirit, staff across the light rail project are selecting suppliers and choosing meeting venues from along the 13-kilometre Stage One route and being encouraged to get out and explore the range of great businesses that exist.

As part of Love Our City, a range of materials including stickers, posters and badges are available for businesses so keep an eye out for the Love Our City logo and stop in to show your support for other hard working locals.

John Witheriff

Chairman’s message

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John Witheriff.
Locals leave their mark on light rail

Gold Coasters will have a light rail system styled truly as their own when services commence in 2014. Two Gold Coast Institute of TAFE (GCIT) students’ design ideas will become a reality in the form of the initial light rail uniform for operations staff. Selections from GCIT design students Kelsey Ingram and Sue Paul along with local industry designer Huski, will form part of the uniform range for tram drivers, line officers, customer service officers, maintenance workers and other operational staff.

GCIT student Kelsey Ingram said it felt surreal to know their uniform design would now come to life and be worn by light rail staff. “It has been such a fantastic opportunity to gain real industry experience and a great head start to our career,” she said.

Ms Ingram’s design partner Sue Paul said after putting a lot of time and thought into their submission it was great to have the work acknowledged. “I was thrilled to be shortlisted, but I didn’t expect to win! I’m really proud and excited that our design is going to become reality,” Ms Paul said.

GoldLinQ CEO Phil Mumford said the final design reflected the Gold Coast well through bright colours, light fabrics and a relaxed but professional look. In addition to local uniforms, the voice-over heard on all trams and station platforms will be unique to the Gold Coast with local Tom Vergotis taking out the “Voice of the Tram” competition in August. Mr Vergotis’ voice will inform on-board commuters of upcoming stations, nearby attractions and other key information while runner-up Anna Waters-Massey will become the “Voice of the Platform”.

Creating positive partnerships through learning

As part of delivering Queensland’s first light rail system GoldLinQ’s Design and Construction Joint Venture (D&C JV) partner, McConnell Dowell Constructors Pty Ltd (MacDow) and Bombardier Transportation (BT), is collaborating with local schools and tertiary institutions to deliver an innovative Schools and Education program called ‘Love Learning’.

Love Learning aims to maximise opportunities for local industry and future workers through the engagement of schools, colleges, universities and TAFEs to promote knowledge transfer, foster innovations and enhance skills.

The campaign was officially launched by the Minister for Education, Training and Employment, Mr John Paul Langbroek on Friday 21 September at Southport State School. “This program demonstrates that major infrastructure projects can deliver education and training opportunities that lead to improved participation in employment,” Mr Langbroek said.

“The Newman Government is committed to cutting unemployment to 4% in six years and initiatives like this help move us closer to achieving this goal.” Members of the project team delivering the Gold Coast light rail joined Mr Langbroek at a special assembly to commemorate the launch where students were introduced to the different roles that people play in constructing the system. Students also learnt the importance of the light rail to the Gold Coast as a great public transport alternative for getting around the city come 2014.

The D&C JV also announced Southport State School as a recipient in the first round of Community Grants. The D&C JV Operations Manager from McConnell Dowell, Daryl Young and Rail Systems Delivery Director from Bombardier Transportation, Ian Corfield presented the school with a cheque for $2,000 for the line marking of their new outdoor court surfaces.
The Design and Construction Joint Venture (D&C JV) partner of GoldLinQ, McConnell Dowell Constructors Pty Ltd (MacDow) and Bombardier Transportation (BT), announced the first round of the Gold Coast Light Rail Community Grants this year with seven successful Gold Coast organisations receiving funding.

In the first round the D&C JV donated nearly $12,000 to local community organisations and groups that will provide lasting community benefit in the areas of:
- Healthy and active living
- Community
- Safety
- Youth
- Environment
- Public transport

Successful applicants included Southport State Primary School, Southport Tigers Junior Rugby League Football Club, Inter Urban Arts, Little Souls Taking Big Steps Limited, Gold Coast Youth Service, Tomewin Mountain Challenge and Mudgeeraba State School.

These projects successfully addressed one or more of the following criteria:
- Demonstrate long lasting benefits to the Gold Coast community
- Enhance community operations through programs, infrastructure or equipment

Opportunities to raise community awareness for the Gold Coast light rail project.

McConnell Dowell and Bombardier Transportation will progress two further rounds of Community Grants in 2013, with the first round to be announced early in the new year.

Light rail leaders
Bombardier Transportation (BT) provides world leading expertise in sustainable rail transport systems

BT is currently building the 14 Gold Coast Flexity 2 light rail vehicles that are set to become an integral feature of the city’s urban landscape. BT’s Rail Project Delivery Director Ian Corfield said the first Flexity 2 tram for the Gold Coast would arrive in mid-2013 with the final tram to be delivered in early 2014.

“We are proud to be delivering a Queensland designed tram for the Gold Coast, 43 metres long with its unique cab front styled around a wave,” Mr Corfield said. “Bombardier has delivered 3,500 light rail vehicles world-wide in the past 15 years and we continue to be a global leader of choice for light rail systems.”

GoldLinQ CEO Phil Mumford recently toured BT’s factory in Bautzen, Germany to inspect the vehicles and to visit European cities with light rail systems in several stages of development from construction and newly built systems through to well-established networks.

“It has been great to see the first Gold Coast vehicle being built and to find in most cities with a new light rail they can’t build extensions fast enough to keep up with passenger demand.”

Southport Tigers Junior Rugby League Football Club players and President excited about getting new jerseys.