

# Gold Coast Rapid Transit

## Light rail public transport

The Gold Coast Rapid Transit project is delivering a 13 kilometre dedicated light rail corridor servicing the new Gold Coast University Hospital, Griffith University, and the fast growing commercial, retail and recreational centres of Southport, Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach.

### What is a light rail system?

A light rail system contains electric vehicles operating in their own corridor mostly separated from traffic, but interacting with other traffic at intersections. Stations are located near intersections for easy pedestrian access from existing footpaths and crossings.

Light rail vehicles are:

- powered by electricity
- quiet and have low emissions
- able to carry 200 or more passengers during peak periods
- between 30-45 metres in length and about 2.5 metres wide
- low floor entry and grade level access
- wide and light, with space for luggage, prams, wheelchairs with multiple exit and entry doors.

Light rail vehicles are modern, air conditioned and comfortable. These modern vehicles should not be confused with the older style trams operating in Melbourne. Modern light rail vehicles are found in over 100 cities around the world including Paris, London, Dublin, Barcelona and Portland.



Above: Light rail in operation in Graz, Austria.

### Why was light rail chosen?

Two modes of public transport, bus rapid transit and light rail, were investigated in detail. The vehicles were compared against a number of criteria include capacity, passenger comfort, reliability, safety, sustainability and value for money.

Light rail proved to be the better option, providing the following benefits:

- its ability to move greater numbers of people quickly and easily between key activity centres
- the reduced environmental impact
- the proven benefit light rail provides in terms of stimulating economic benefits through transport-oriented developments.



Above: Light rail in Seattle, USA.



Above: Light rail in Dublin, Ireland.

## Is light rail safe?

Safety is a priority for the Gold Coast Rapid Transit project. The system will be designed, constructed and operated to ensure the system is safe and appropriate for a unique city like the Gold Coast.

Careful consideration has been given to the location, route and station design to achieve the best outcomes. The technology proposed will operate safely in busy pedestrian environments and a range of measures will be put in place to maximise safety, such as:

- separation between passenger platforms and traffic lanes
- crossings controlled by traffic signals at intersections
- direct, safe and efficient walking links to stations
- light rail/road crossings only at signalised intersections.

It will be safe to drive next to a light rail vehicle because for most of the route the light rail will run in a dedicated corridor, separated from traffic. Traffic lanes and tracks will be clearly marked to separate the traffic when this is required.

## More information

Visit the project website for current information including downloadable maps, schedule of works and traffic impacts, and regular news articles.

## Light rail in operation

When the light rail begins operation in 2014, it will be an entirely new system which will be able to carry 200 or more passengers per vehicle.

### Stations

There will be 16 stations in Stage One, which will be generally 400 metres to 800 metres apart. Stations will provide shelter, seating and ticketing facilities. The stations will vary in size depending on their location.

### Accessibility

The stations and vehicles will comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport requirements.

### Operation

The system will have dual tracks and operate in both directions. Services have the ability to operate 24 hours on weekend and during special events, with service frequency matching passenger demand. A trip from Griffith University to Broadbeach will take approximately 35 minutes, passing through 16 stations.

## Contact us

**Web:** [www.goldcoastrapidtransit.qld.gov.au](http://www.goldcoastrapidtransit.qld.gov.au)

**Email:** [gc\\_rapidtransit@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:gc_rapidtransit@tmr.qld.gov.au)

**Phone:** 1800 967 377

00911

[www.goldcoastrapidtransit.qld.gov.au](http://www.goldcoastrapidtransit.qld.gov.au)



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