

Gold Coast Rapid Transit

Project overview

The Gold Coast Rapid Transit project is a light rail transport system being delivered by the Queensland Government in partnership with the Australian Government and the Gold Coast City Council.

The project will deliver a transport system that is accessible, frequent, reliable and integrated with the existing transport network to ensure it meets the needs of the Gold Coast community, now and into the future.

Stage One of the Gold Coast Rapid Transit project is a 13 kilometre light rail system connecting Griffith University to Broadbeach and passing through the key activity centres of Southport and Surfers Paradise.

Project history

The project has been planned since the late 1990s with both the Queensland State Government and Gold Coast City Council recognising the need for a long term solution to growing population demands and traffic congestion increased.

Why was light rail chosen?

Two modes of public transport, bus rapid transit and light rail, were investigated in detail. The modes 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, because it offered advantages in the following areas:

- 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: A map showing Stage One of the project - a 13km corridor from Griffith University to Broadbeach.

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About light rail

In Australia, light rail systems are currently in operation in Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney. Internationally, over 100 cities world wide have successful light rail systems including Paris, London, San Diego, Barcelona and Portland.

Light rail vehicles run along a fixed track within the existing road reserve, with priority given at intersections. Light rail vehicles are:

- quiet and air-conditioned
- powered by electricity
- able to carry 200 or more passengers per vehicle, safely and comfortably
- accessible at grade level via multiple doors.

Delivery method

Stage One of the Gold Coast Rapid Transit system will be delivered in two phases:

- Early and Enabling Works, which will prepare the corridor for construction and includes road widening, the relocation of public utilities, accommodation works such as the reinstatement of driveways, fencing and car parks and the construction of a station shell at the Gold Coast University Hospital.
- The Operator Franchise will construct, operate and maintain the light rail system for 15 years. The Operator Franchisee work will include stations, depots, bridges and the construction of the actual light rail system, including supply of vehicles and overall operations.

Potential future stages

Potential future stages of the system include:

- the corridor heading north from Griffith University to Helensvale
- the corridor heading south from Broadbeach to Burleigh Heads
- the corridor from Burleigh Heads to Coolangatta.

Undertaking high-level preliminary investigation of future stages allows implementation of Stage One to allow for future extension, particularly at the points where Stage One connects with the potential future stages at Griffith University in the north and Broadbeach in the south.

Future stage funding has not yet been committed, and planning activity for these stages is preliminary only. Once funding is confirmed the project will work closely with the community and other key stakeholders while undertaking more detailed planning and consultation activities in these areas.

Project milestones

Milestone	Target Date
Commence Construction Gold Coast University Hospital Station Shell – Parklands Drive	July 2010
Commence Roadworks North and South	Late 2010
Operator Franchise bids close	Late 2010
Completion of Gold Coast University Hospital Station Shell – Parklands Drive	Late 2011
Completion of Roadworks Program North and South	Late 2011
Operator Franchise construction works commence	Late 2011
Commencement of Gold Coast Rapid Transit Services	2014



Above: An artists impression of the light rail system in Surfers Paradise.

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Australian Government

