



Joint Statement

HIGH SPEED LINK – A REVOLUTION IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Concept designs for the Airport Link and Northern Busway, which will relieve peak-hour traffic congestion for years to come, were released today by Premier Peter Beattie, Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman and Transport and Main Roads Minister Paul Lucas.

The Premier said the two projects would change the face of public transport on Brisbane's northside.

"Imagine travelling on a bus from Kedron to the Royal Brisbane Hospital in just six minutes in peak hour – that's a tremendous timesaving," Mr Beattie said.

"We're planning a first-class public transport corridor for commuters.

"We want the people who'll be using the busway and the Airport Link to let us know what they think. The plans aren't set in concrete and we want to hear what people think about these designs before reaching any decision," Mr Beattie said.

"Lutwyche Road currently carries 65,000 vehicles a day. Our traffic studies show that without Airport Link, this will increase to more than 100,000 by 2026.

"We're planning now, for our future needs."

Mr Lucas said: "Both projects make the most use of the existing traffic corridor along Lutwyche Road and this will reduce the impact on property owners.

"We've listened to the wishes of the community and have taken their comments on board. These projects are as much a part of the community as they are of government."

Cr Newman said the preliminary concept design for Airport Link was a major step forward in addressing traffic congestion in the northern suburbs.

"The good news is, we're well on our way to finding a way of reducing traffic congestion that will have the least impacts and the most benefits for the local and wider community," he said.

"This solution will mean private vehicles can travel underground to avoid congestion on major arterials, Lutwyche and Sandgate roads, while buses are given priority on a dedicated busway."

The State Government and Brisbane City Council are jointly funding a \$21 million detailed feasibility study into Airport Link.

Both the Airport Link and the busway are part of the *South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program (SEQIPP)*, while Airport Link is a major part of Council's *TransApex* plan.

The State Government has provided \$530 million under *SEQIPP* for the northern busway, with a further \$120 million to join the new busway to the existing Inner Northern Busway at Herston.

Mr Lucas and Cr Newman said property owners and residents had been informed of all progress on the projects through a series of letters, newsletters and information sessions. Letters were also being sent to property owners and residents this week inviting them to meet with the project teams.

Cr Newman urged property owners to take up the offer of a meeting as soon as possible to find out more about the preliminary concept designs for both projects and discuss their individual needs.

"One thing I want to make very clear is that the preliminary concept design is just the first step in the design process for both projects," he said.

"We still have a long way to go before the design will be ready for formal assessment, and all proposals are open for further community input. This is about getting it right for the people of Brisbane."

The early plans will be out this week for public comment.

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