



JOINT STATEMENT

BEATTIE AND NEWMAN ANNOUNCE PREFERRED CORRIDOR STUDY FOR AIRPORT LINK

The State Government and Brisbane City Council have announced a 'western corridor' to be investigated as the route for the proposed Airport Link tunnel.

Premier Peter Beattie and Lord Mayor Campbell Newman announced the proposed corridor today, revealing the majority of Airport Link would see a tunnel running almost the entire length of Lutwyche Road.

"This option was chosen for study because it provides better linkages with other road and public transport projects and has less of an impact on the surrounding community both during and after construction," Mr Beattie said.

"Airport Link will create a major connection between the northern end of the North-South Bypass Tunnel and the Inner City Bypass to Gympie Road, Sandgate Road and the East-West Arterial which currently links the northern suburbs to the airport."

Councillor Newman said the announcement of the preferred corridor followed a four-month investigation, which involved community consultation and an assessment of a wide range of issues including engineering, traffic, environmental, land use and financial considerations.

The western corridor will be underground, following the lines of Lutwyche Road, then emerging at Gympie Road, Kedron and veering east to join the East-West Arterial Road at Toombul.

It will pass under the commercial precinct at Lutwyche and the residential areas at Woolloowin, Eagle Junction and Kalinga.

"The western corridor would allow the majority of the Airport Link proposal to be built as a tunnel to reduce the impact on the community while construction is underway and also when the road opens," Mr Beattie said

"It allows us to better connect and incorporate the State Government's planned Northern Busway, which will link the existing Inner Northern Busway at Herston to Aspley via Windsor, Lutwyche, Kedron and Chermside.

"The Northern Busway will provide fast, frequent and reliable public transport connections along this important gateway to the city.

"It will be planned at the same time as the Airport Link study with coordinated community consultation."

Mr Beattie said while a preferred corridor had been identified, an environmental impact statement and business case would be carried out to determine whether the project was technically and financially feasible before it proceeded further.

The State Government is providing \$16 million towards the \$21 million cost of the Airport Link Detailed Feasibility Study, with Council contributing \$5 million.

Councillor Newman said the preferred corridor for Airport Link would be investigated and evaluated further during the second phase of the feasibility study.

“Airport Link offers us the opportunity to make a major improvement to Brisbane’s traffic network and the inner northern suburbs,” Cr Newman said.

“We can now go ahead with preparing the terms of reference for the environmental impact statement. A draft for public comment is expected to be released next month.

“This will allow us to get the EIS started as soon as possible and hopefully completed by the middle of next year.

“Tenders for the North-South Bypass Tunnel are progressing well and will close in early December.

“Council has received the tenders we will evaluate them with a view to awarding a contract mid next year,” Cr Newman said.

Transport and Main Roads Minister Paul Lucas said Airport Link would significantly reduce congestion and improve public transport opportunities.

“Airport Link will save motorists a lot of time and money by giving them a direct route from the northern suburbs to the city and, through the North-South Bypass Tunnel, to the Pacific Motorway, Ipswich Road and Shafston Avenue in the south.

“A seamless journey - without traffic lights,” Mr Lucas said.

Mr Beattie said both levels of government had worked closely together to provide an integrated solution for the projects.

“The Memorandum of Understanding on an accelerated Airport Link Detailed Feasibility Study signed by the State Government and Council in August has been a key factor in the success,” Mr Beattie said.

Cr Newman agreed both levels of government had managed to advance a series of complex planning issues by working closely together.

“This good working relationship with the State Government has allowed Council to progress the North-South Bypass Tunnel as a stand-alone project while ensuring planning for it is still integrated with the Airport Link proposal,” Cr Newman said.

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