



Speech by

Hon. Paul Lucas

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Inner Northern Busway

Hon. P.T. LUCAS (Lytton—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.08 a.m.): I would like to update the House on the construction of two new busway stations on the Inner Northern Busway. In February, the \$135 million stages 1 and 2 of the Inner Northern Busway from Roma Street to Gilchrist Avenue near the Royal Children's Hospital opened. These stages were jointly funded by the state and Brisbane City Council. The Beattie government has allocated \$12.35 million towards building two new stations. I am pleased to announce that tenders have been called for the new station at Normanby and that tenders have closed for a new station at the Royal Children's Hospital, Herston. Both stations will be built next year and will provide high-quality transit facilities to cater for the growing demand for bus services in Brisbane's northern suburbs.

Since opening in February, the initial stages of the INB have proven an outstanding success. Bus patronage of inner northern suburban services from Chermide to the CBD has increased by three per cent. That is an extra 84,651 passengers. The TransLink 333 service—a new route that we introduced to the city via the QUT Kelvin Grove campus when the INB opened—carried more than 500,000 passengers in its first six months. The INB allows buses travelling from the northern suburbs to bypass inner city traffic congestion when travelling to the CBD.

When completed, the busway will form a 4.7 kilometre dedicated roadway for buses from the Queen Street bus station to the Royal Brisbane Hospital at Herston. The completed INB will cut average bus travel times between Herston and the CBD by up to nine minutes during normal traffic and by up to 20 minutes when there is heavy congestion. Contracts for the new stations are expected to be awarded by the end of December, with the new stations scheduled to open in August next year. I can reassure bus travellers that the INB will remain open while the new stations are being built.

The RCH Herston station will be directly opposite the Royal Children's Hospital. Public access will be from Herston Road via lifts and stairs, and from Gilchrist Avenue on a pedestrian and bicycle path. The Normanby station will be located directly under Brisbane Grammar School's sports centre between Kelvin Grove Road and the rail line. Access will be from an arrival plaza on Kelvin Grove Road. These new stations will have similar facilities to existing stations along the South East Busway and the INB station at the QUT Kelvin Grove campus, including modern undercover seating, electronic bulletin boards displaying service information, in-built passenger security measures such as video surveillance cameras, emergency help points and lighting.

The Beattie government is providing more than \$2.5 billion in recurrent funding over the next four years for the public transport network in south-east Queensland. This includes a further \$248 million capital investment on bus infrastructure and facilities such as the extension of the INB to Queen Street and bus priority improvements in Brisbane and on the Gold and Sunshine coasts.