

Question on Notice

No. 592

Asked on 21 May 2024

MR P RUSSO ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND MINISTER FOR DIGITAL SERVICES (HON B MELLISH)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the progress on upgrading the Boundary Road, Coopers Plains rail level crossing and advise of the benefits of the upgrade for residents on the southside of Brisbane, including in my electorate of Toohey?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Toohey for the question.

Design of the preferred option to address safety concerns and reduce congestion at the Boundary Road, Coopers Plains rail level crossing is well underway, with site investigation works completed in mid-December 2023.

The preferred option includes an overpass of the existing rail line at Boundary Road with an elevated three-way intersection connecting Boundary Road and Orange Grove Road.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is managing complexities around designing a three-span road over the rail bridge, across a live rail corridor, and an elevated intersection of Boundary Road and Orange Grove Road within a heavily constrained corridor and expects to complete the project design later this year.

The Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) 2024–25 to 2027–28 includes an allocation of \$399 million of funding towards the project. Current funding commitments are:

- Australian Government – \$179.5 million
- Queensland Government – \$179.5 million
- Brisbane City Council – \$40 million.

The current total project funding meets the business case cost estimate for the project of \$399 million.

TMR has started engaging with owners and tenants of properties directly impacted by the planned works and expects to release the project design to the community by around September 2024. TMR will commence procurement to award a construction contract in 2025.

Removing the level rail crossing will not only significantly improve safety for all road users but will also reduce travel times for motorists and train passengers alike, by increasing the reliability of the rail network and busting congestion on Boundary Road.

The project will also improve local connectivity by providing new traffic connections between Henley Street and Beenleigh Road – on the western side of the rail corridor, and Babbidge Street and Breton Street – on the eastern side. A new local access off Beenleigh Road will also be built to maintain access to properties on the southern side of Boundary Road between Beenleigh Road and Halt Street. New active transport facilities, including on and off-road cycling connections and dedicated pedestrian paths, will provide safe access for pedestrians and people riding their bikes.

The Miles Government is delivering its ninth record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row, as detailed in *QTRIP 2024–25 to 2027–28*, which outlines \$37.4 billion in investment over the next four years and is estimated to support an average of 28,000 direct jobs over the life of the program. Of this, \$4.724 billion is committed across the Department of Transport and Main Roads' Metropolitan Region, estimated to support an average of 3490 direct jobs over the life of the program.