

Question on Notice

No. 1660

Asked on 11 November 2008

MR CHOI asked the Minister for Main Roads and Local Government (MR PITT) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the duplication of the Gateway Bridge to provide better infrastructure and relieve congestion –

Will he advise what important milestones have been reached to date?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Capalaba for the question.

The Gateway Upgrade Project (GUP) involves duplication of the Gateway Bridge, a 12-kilometre upgrade of the existing motorway from Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road to the Gateway Bridge and construction of seven kilometres of new motorway north from the Gateway Bridge to Nudgee Road through airport land, including a new airport interchange.

Queensland Motorways Limited (QML) is delivering the project on behalf of the State Government through a design, construct and maintain contract with the Leighton Abigroup Joint Venture (LAJV).

A key feature of the GUP is the progressive opening of each stage of the project to traffic as it is completed. This is designed to ensure motorists enjoy the benefits of the project as soon as possible.

Due to the adoption of match-cast methodology for the approach spans of the new Gateway Bridge, the project is three months ahead of schedule.

The GUP is progressing well and is on schedule for completion by early 2011.

Deliverables on GUP to date

The first deliverable for the project occurred in July 2007 when the separate early works package was completed. The upgrade of the Wynnum Road intersection with the Gateway Motorway has provided additional eastbound and westbound lanes on the motorway, and double right-turn lanes for entry on to the motorway. The project was delivered on time and under budget.

In order to relieve congestion, additional southbound lanes and other improvements have been progressively delivered on the Gateway Motorway between the Gateway Bridge Toll Plaza and Wynnum Road between December 2007 and May 2008. These include:

- two additional lanes (now a total of four lanes) from the Port of Brisbane on-ramp to Wynnum Road.
- improved alignment for the Port of Brisbane on-ramp.

- a double off-ramp from the Gateway Motorway to Wynnum Road.
- a continuous third lane from the Gateway Toll Plaza/Lytton Road overpass to the Port of Brisbane on-ramp.

The delivery of a third lane over Wynnum Road was brought forward to September 2008, signalling the completion of southbound upgrades between the Port of Brisbane and Wynnum Road.

Construction Milestones on the GUP

South

Two major traffic switches occurred between July 2008 and September 2008. The first transferred traffic for 2.5 kilometres north of Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road. Southbound traffic was switched onto temporary pavements, followed by a switch of northbound traffic onto the existing southbound lanes. This will allow reconstruction of the northbound lanes. In the second major traffic switch, southbound and northbound traffic was switched for 2.5 kilometres south of Old Cleveland Road, leaving the old northbound lanes clear of traffic for reconstruction.

Bridge

In March 2007, construction of the second Gateway Bridge commenced with the excavation of the first of a series of test holes driven into the riverbank to provide information needed to construct the massive pylons that would support the new bridge.

Further, December 2007 marked the completion of the first pile cap pour for the southern main river pier. This was closely followed by the next pile cap pour in March 2008 for the northern main river pier.

In March 2008, the first concrete match cast segments were lifted into place using a crane to form the first pieces of the deck for the second Gateway Bridge and two 76 metre tower cranes were erected to service the two main river piers.

In May 2008, the first northern approach span for the new Gateway Bridge was completed.

In early November 2008, an 800-tonne gantry, measuring 165 metres long became fully operational, lifting deck segments into place for the northern approach of the second Gateway Bridge. To date, seven out of ten deck spans on the northern approach are now complete, and on the southern approach, three out of five piers are complete and the southern abutment of the bridge is under construction.

North

In May 2008, QML announced an increase in the scope of works for the section of the GUP from the airport interchange to Nudgee Road from four to six lanes.

Between July and August 2008, beams were lifted in place over Airport Drive and Kingsford Smith Drive as part of the seven kilometres of new motorway.

On 1 November 2008, the largest concrete pour for the GUP project to date, consisting of 2100 cubic metres of concrete, was successfully completed. This formed one of the two overpass bridges located directly north of the Gateway Bridge that will link it to the

seven kilometres of new motorway to Nudgee Road, including a new airport interchange, on the northern end of the project.

In November 2008, the final beams were lifted over Lavarack Avenue which also forms part of the seven kilometres of new motorway north of the Gateway Bridge. In total, 14 out of the 17 bridge structures in the north are currently constructed.

GUP is progressing well, providing better infrastructure through the achievement of significant milestones within contracted timeframes. Progressive openings of each stage of the project to traffic as it is completed is also assisting in relieving congestion for South East Queensland motorists.