

# north-south corridor

## Darlington Upgrade Project

# Newsletter

July 2018



*Aerial view of Sturt Road intersection with Main South Road, looking east*

## Project update

Construction of the Darlington Upgrade Project is approximately 65% complete, with major works underway across the entire length of the corridor and a number of key milestones recently achieved.

More than one million hours have been worked to date and an impressive 34,000 m<sup>3</sup> of structural concrete, 1,350 tonnes of structural steel, 8,500 tonnes of steel reinforcement and 40,000 tonnes of asphalt have been used so far.

The second half of 2018 is set to be the busiest time on the project to date, with a number of major milestones to take place.

The new Main South Road bridge over the Southern Expressway to the surface roads will be opened to traffic, two bridges will be transported and installed via self-propelled modular transporters and two major traffic switches will take place.



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## Bridge construction

Eight bridges are being constructed for the project to improve connectivity and traffic flow in the area. The map below provides information on the progress of bridge works.

The bridges are being built using three different methods – the traditional ‘top-down’ and ‘bottom-up’ methods and the ‘off-line’ method.

With the ‘top-down’ method, the bridge piers, supporting deck, road pavement, railings and shared use paths are all built at current road surface levels. Once construction of the structure is complete and traffic is moved onto the new bridge, the soil underneath the bridge structure is then excavated.

The ‘bottom-up’ method starts with the installation of bridge piers and finishes with construction of the bridge deck and pavement. The southern half of the Ayliffes Road bridge is being built using this method.

The ‘off-line’ method of construction involves the structure being built off-site and then transported and lifted into place.

The two Main South Road bridges over the Southern Expressway and the Ayliffes Road (northern section) bridges are being built using this method.

This installation method has been adopted rather than traditional bridge construction practices as it significantly reduces traffic and community impacts, requiring only one major weekend closure rather than seven.

## Main South Road/Southern Expressway bridge installation & weekend closure

During the second half of 2018, the second Main South Road bridge over the Southern Expressway will be installed.

The structure is currently being constructed off-line on the section of land between Main South Road, Marion Road and the Southern Expressway (near Hungry Jacks) and will be transported and lifted into place over a weekend using self-propelled modular transporters.

In order to safely install the bridge, a road closure is required. The closure will take place over a

weekend, from 8pm on a Friday evening until 6am on Monday on the section of Main South Road between Flinders Drive and Flagstaff Road; and the Southern Expressway between the Marion off ramp and the intersection of Main South Road.

During the weekend closure, detours for Main South Road traffic will be in place via Sturt Road and Marion Road.

The Southern Expressway will be operational, with traffic required to enter and exit at the Marion Road ramps.

## Ayliffes Road bridge installation & weekend closure

The Ayliffes Road bridge will carry northbound traffic from Main South Road onto Ayliffes Road, over the Ayliffes Road/South Road/Shepherds Hill Road intersection.

Works have been underway since early this year to construct the southern section of the bridge and prepare for the installation of the northern section. The northern section is being built off-line in the centre of Main South Road adjacent to Sutton Road and Maidstone Road.

In order to safely install the bridge, a partial weekend closure of the Ayliffes Road/South Road/Shepherds Hill Road intersection is required. This will take place over a weekend in the coming months, from 8pm on a Friday evening until 6am on Monday.

During the partial closure, detours will be in place for general motorists via Daws Road, Marion Road and Sturt Road.

Local resident, business and bus access will be maintained at all times throughout the work zone.

Access for emergency services vehicles will be maintained at all times during the two weekend closures.

Detours will be in place for cyclists and pedestrians. There will be some impacts to bus services, with some stops not serviced and detours in place.

Detailed information on the weekend closures and confirmation of the dates will be provided in the near future.

Keep an eye on the website for animations showing the installation of both bridges.





Aerial view of project works with the Sutton Road/Mimosa Terrace bridge in the foreground and the Sturt Road bridge, Flinders Drive bridge and Main South Road bridge in the background



Ayliffes Road bridge piers



Aerial view of Flinders Drive bridge



Temporary supports for the northern section of the Ayliffes Road bridge



Sutton Road/Mimosa Drive bridge works



Sturt Road bridge



Ayliffes Road bridge abutment and pier



Main South Road looking south with Ayliffes Road bridge piers to the right

# Traffic switches

The project is being constructed in stages to ensure that traffic continues to flow efficiently through this important section of the North-South Corridor while works are underway.

In the second half of 2018, two major traffic switches will occur. See below for details.

## Main South Road, Bedford Park

In order to undertake excavation for the lowered motorway, a major traffic switch will soon take place for northbound traffic on Main South Road between the Southern Expressway and Sturt Road.

This traffic switch will result in significant changes to the way that motorists access Flinders Drive and Sturt Road.

Northbound traffic exiting the Southern Expressway and northbound traffic travelling on the section of Main South Road between Brookside Road and Sturt Road will be split into two separate traffic streams. One stream will accommodate traffic wanting to continue on Main South Road and the other will carry traffic wanting to turn right into Flinders Drive.

## Main South Road traffic

Northbound traffic on Main South wanting to continue travelling straight will be switched onto the new Main South Road bridge over the Southern Expressway which was installed late last year.

**Important note:** Motorists using these lanes will not be able to turn right into Sturt Road. It will be necessary to either turn left onto Marion Road in order to access Sturt Road or undertake a U-turn on Ayliffes Road. The left turn into Sturt Road will remain available.

Northbound motorists on Main South Road wanting to access Flinders Drive will be required to position themselves in the right hand lane, just prior to Brookside Drive.

## Southern Expressway traffic

Northbound motorists on the Southern Expressway wanting to continue northbound on Main South Road will be required to be in the two left-hand lanes.

**Important note:** Motorists using these lanes will not be able to turn left onto Sturt Road. It will be necessary to either exit via Marion Road off-ramp in order to access Sturt Road and Laffer Drive. The right turn into Sturt Road will remain available.

Northbound motorists on the Southern Expressway wanting to access Flinders Drive will be required to position themselves in the right lane in order to access lanes to Flinders Drive.

## South Road, St Marys

To allow for lowered motorway excavation works and construction of the Tonsley Boulevard bridge, a traffic switch is required on South Road, between Ayliffes Road and Tobruk Avenue, St Marys.

The switch will take place in the coming months and will see both northbound and southbound traffic moved onto newly constructed surface roads.

It will result in changes to the way that motorists access Tonsley Boulevard.

Detailed information of the traffic switches and confirmation of dates will be provided in the near future.



Northern abutment of the Main South Road bridge over the Southern Expressway onto surface roads

# Making a difference

The Darlington Upgrade Project is an integral link in the North-South Corridor Upgrade. For many of the 300 plus people employed on the project, it is also the next step in progressing their career within the civil construction industry.

Young indigenous worker Michael Sumner was working as a gyrocker but wanted to make a change when an opportunity with the project became available. Since coming on board in late 2016, Michael has obtained his Certificate 3 in Civil Construction and is now working towards gaining his excavator ticket to add to his dogging, forklift and operating elevating work platform tickets. He is excited about what this new direction means for him.

“Being on a major site in South Australia – in the long run is going to provide opportunities,” he said.

Michael is one of many people given the chance to learn new skills and take hold of real employment opportunities provided by the project team.



Michael Sumner recently obtained his Certificate 3 in Civil Construction whilst working on the Darlington Upgrade Project

Aboriginal participation is a real focus of the project, and accounts for approximately 7% of the total project hours worked on-site. Given that the policy target is 2% or more, we are very proud of this achievement.

As part of the project's Workforce Participation and Skills Development Strategy, more than 40,000 hours of nationally accredited and non-accredited learning and training has been delivered to staff.

With training and up-skilling a clear project focus, a number of initiatives have been introduced to facilitate and support building construction capabilities within Adelaide and surrounding areas.

One such initiative is an undergraduate placement program for university students in the fields of engineering and accounting, to undertake their mandatory twelve week placements. The project has also employed recent university graduates following undergraduate project placements.

In addition, we have partnered with industry organisations and associations such as The Master Builders Association and the Construction Industry Training Board in programs designed to provide high school students with an understanding of the industry, requirements for career development and a basic set of entry level skills.

## Flinders Link

The proposed Flinders Link Project is currently in the planning and design phase, where key elements of the project are being developed and refined to ensure the greatest value and benefits are achieved.

Further information will be provided as the project progresses.

For more information please visit the project website at: [www.infrastructure.sa.gov.au/major\\_projects/flinders\\_link](http://www.infrastructure.sa.gov.au/major_projects/flinders_link)

For all enquiries regarding the project please email: [dpti.flinderslink@sa.gov.au](mailto:dpti.flinderslink@sa.gov.au) or call 1300 928 345.

## Night and weekend work

Project works are generally undertaken from Monday to Saturday during the day but we also need to undertake works out of hours – both at night and on Sundays.

Where these works are expected to be noisy or affect access we will provide advance notice to adjacent residents.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during construction.



Artist's impression of the Sturt Road/Main South Road intersection

## Community survey results

We recently undertook our first community perception survey for the project. The survey measured the level of stakeholder and community satisfaction with engagement and information received from the project team.

The results were pleasing, with the majority of respondents advising that the information they receive from the project team is delivered in a timely manner, meaningful and factual.

Respondents also advised that they are satisfied with the process and outcome of dealing with the project team.

We would welcome any further feedback from our community so if you didn't get a chance to complete the survey please contact us at the details below.

## Information sessions

Community information sessions will be held at Westfield Marion this month to provide members of the public with the opportunity to find out more about the project and upcoming key activities.

Members of the project team will be in attendance adjacent Mister Minit on level 2, at the below dates and times:

**Tuesday 17 July: 11am - 3pm**

**Thursday 19 July: 4pm - 9pm**

**Saturday 21 July: 10am - 2pm**

Please come along and have a chat with team members and view copies of plans and project information.

## For more information

**Call:** 1300 759 334

**Email:** [enquiries@gatewaysouth.com.au](mailto:enquiries@gatewaysouth.com.au)

**Visit:** The project site office on the corner of Laffer Drive and Sturt Road, Bedford Park, to speak with a member of the project team.

**Visit:** [infrastructure.sa.gov.au/darlington](http://infrastructure.sa.gov.au/darlington)

The project also supports equitable access to information. Translation of project information will be provided on request.



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