

# Park Terrace, Fitzroy Terrace and Torrens Road Upgrade Project Update

June 2015



## The South Australian and Australian Governments have provided \$11.3 million in funding for the Park Terrace, Fitzroy Terrace and Torrens Road Upgrade.

The Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure is delivering this upgrade which will improve efficiency and safety along this busy route. It will also ease traffic congestion when major construction works on the North-South Corridor, Torrens Road to River Torrens Project commences mid this year. This project update provides the latest information regarding this important upgrade.

## The Project

Park Terrace and Fitzroy Terrace provide a key link around the northern Adelaide Parklands, connecting the north-south arterial of Churchill Road to South Road via Port Road and James Congdon Drive.

The upgrade includes:

- An additional traffic lane on the southern side of Fitzroy Terrace.
- An additional traffic lane in each direction on Park Terrace, east of Port Road, to Torrens Road by utilising the wide centre median.
- The provision of an additional city-bound lane on Torrens Road utilising the existing long left turn lane into Churchill Road as it crosses the rail line and removing the dedicated bus lane on the northern approach to the Churchill Road intersection.
- Increased safety for pedestrians and cyclists with improved footpaths and improved connections to cycling routes, including the Adelaide Parklands.
- New irrigated landscaping in the centre median on Park Terrace, between Fourth Street and Sixth Street.
- Revegetation of service road medians.

The design of this upgrade is aimed at minimising impacts on adjacent land use, and on owners and tenants, while balancing the constraints of this upgrade, including its close proximity to the Parklands, the rail overpass, the Bowden redevelopment and the existing high voltage power lines. All of these factors have been balanced with the project objectives of improving efficiency and safety for road users.

### Further information

Call 1300 794 880

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## Community and Stakeholder Engagement

In January 2015 stakeholders and the local community were asked to provide feedback on the proposed upgrade. A total of 42 submissions were received.

The main concerns arising from these consultations included:

- Noise and pollution.
- Traffic safety and efficiency.
- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- Landscaping and vegetation.
- Signage and pavement markings at service roads.
- Fitzroy Terrace on-street parking.

In response to these concerns raised, the department has reviewed the proposed design and addressed each issue. In some circumstances, changes have been made to the final design which provides a greater benefit to all road users.

The department is continually working with Adelaide City Council, City of Prospect, City of Charles Sturt and Renewal SA to provide positive solutions to issues raised by them, other stakeholders and the local community.

As a result of community and stakeholder engagement and further planning work, the final design has been developed. These differ from the preliminary concept drawing issued in November 2014 in the following ways:

- Removal of the right turn from Braund Road into Fitzroy Terrace.
- New U-turn facility on Fitzroy Terrace between Braund Road and Prospect Road (to cater for vehicles that previously turned right from Braund Road into Fitzroy Terrace).

- New sheltered right turn on Park Terrace providing safer access into Third Street.
- Improved location for a shared path in the Adelaide Parklands (between Prospect Road and Torrens Road).
- A new activated crossing will be installed for pedestrians and cyclists travelling from the Fitzroy Terrace and Torrens Road refuge into the Fitzroy Terrace service road.
- Investigating 'Keep Clear' pavement markings along Fitzroy Terrace with the service road junctions.
- Ensuring appropriate signage to service roads.
- Installing 'Avoid Using Noisy Exhaust Brakes In Urban Areas' signage.

More information on these improvements to the original design is detailed below.

## Noise and Pollution

The department has undertaken an Environmental Impact Assessment and in accordance with its Road Traffic Noise Guidelines this upgrade does not meet the criteria for noise mitigation, as the additional traffic lanes are to be constructed in the centre median and do not bring traffic lanes closer to the majority of residential properties. At certain locations the road will be widened into the adjacent service road vegetation mound by approximately 0.7 metres.

Noise assessment and treatment is not provided in relation to increases in road traffic noise on the existing network that arise from the increase in traffic volumes over time as a result of gradual urban growth.

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The department has projected that traffic volumes on Park Terrace and Fitzroy Terrace will temporarily increase by approximately 10% during the construction of the North-South Corridor, Torrens Road to River Torrens Project. This increase will produce a negligible change to audible traffic noise.

Due to the considerable amount of feedback received regarding the perceived noise impacts associated with this upgrade, the department engaged an acoustic engineering business to independently review the project.

The findings from this independent review validate the department's assessment that this upgrade does not meet the criteria for noise mitigation.

It is expected that the upgrade will result in improved traffic flows, reduced congestion and increased capacity at the intersections resulting in less stop and start movements, idling traffic and associated traffic noise and vehicle emissions.

The Environmental Impact Assessment also includes assessment of flora, fauna, pest plants, water, air quality, contamination, waste material, construction noise, community land use, heritage and cultural impacts and local amenity.

## Traffic Safety and Efficiency

This upgrade aims to reduce the number of rear end collisions that currently occur along these sections of road by improving traffic efficiency and traffic flow. During the construction of the North-South Corridor, Torrens Road to River Torrens project it is predicted that traffic will divert to Park Terrace, Fitzroy Terrace and Torrens Road. However, this traffic is expected to move back to South Road when the Torrens Road to River Torrens project is completed.

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

The majority of feedback on cycling was focused on the design associated with Fitzroy Terrace. The local community showed support to retain the on-road bicycle lane and remove on-street parking along the southern side of Fitzroy Terrace (between Prospect Road and Torrens Road). As the road width required to retain the existing bicycle lane and the additional (third) traffic lane would encroach on the Adelaide Parklands and impact electricity poles, the department has been working with Adelaide City Council to resolve the location of bicycle facilities along this section.

The department and Adelaide City Council have determined that the option to remove the existing on-road bicycle lane and retain the current on-street car parking provides a greater safety benefit for all road users. A new shared cycling and pedestrian path will be constructed in the Adelaide Parklands. The path will provide on-road linkages to Fitzroy Terrace and the existing shared path network in the Adelaide Parklands.

The new shared path also meets Adelaide City Council's long term strategy for cycling facilities in the Adelaide Parklands.



*Artist's impression of shared use path along southern side of Fitzroy Terrace in the Adelaide Parklands*

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The local community also provided feedback on the cycling facilities along the northern side of Fitzroy Terrace and raised concern with the details of the proposed design for a cycling route along the Fitzroy Terrace service roads, particularly that it could create conflicts with vehicles.

The department has met with the City of Prospect who maintain care and control of the Fitzroy Terrace service roads and understands a bicycle facility design is being undertaken that will link the proposed bicycle boulevard adjacent Braund Road and the intersections of Prospect Road and Torrens Road with Fitzroy Terrace.

The City of Prospect has communicated to the department the difficulty for cyclists and pedestrians crossing Fitzroy Terrace between Braund Road and the Adelaide Aquatic Centre. Providing a new activated crossing at this location is not compatible with improving the efficiency of the City Ring Route.

However, a new activated crossing will be installed across the left turn slip lane from Torrens Road into Fitzroy Terrace, providing safer access for pedestrians and cyclists.

Feedback indicated a need for improved access across Park Terrace at the intersection with Hawker Street and War Memorial Drive intersection. The current two stage pedestrian crossing across Park Terrace will be upgraded to a single stage crossing, meaning people walking and cycling will not have to wait in the centre island on Park Terrace.

## Landscaping and Vegetation

This upgrade will maintain as much of the existing vegetation as possible. Additional vegetation including small shrubs, grasses and groundcovers are proposed to be planted in existing gaps in the vegetated banks along the service roads.

The type of species to be planted will be subject to further consultation with adjacent residents and councils and will take into account the need to maintain visibility and sight lines for motorists.

More detailed information about vegetation, landscaping and urban design elements will be provided as the project progresses.

## Signage and Pavement Markings

Signage instructing heavy vehicles to not use air brakes has been raised by a number of residents. As a result, signage will be installed where possible along Park Terrace as part of the upgrade.

The current sign indicating houses 20-26 Fitzroy Terrace will be retained. New 'No Through Road' signage will be installed at the Fitzroy Terrace service road.

There was some community feedback requesting the inclusion of 'Keep Clear' pavement markings at the service road openings. Service road openings are not standard locations for these pavement markings, however the department is investigating this request to ensure this would not create future safety concerns for drivers turning out of the service roads.

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## Improvements to Fitzroy Terrace at the Junction of Braund Road

To improve safety and efficiency on Fitzroy Terrace at the junction of Braund Road, right turns out of Braund Road will be banned.

A new U-turn facility will be provided on Fitzroy Terrace, between the junction of Braund Road and the intersection with Prospect Road. This will cater for motorists who previously turned right out of Braund Road onto Fitzroy Terrace.

The changes on Fitzroy Terrace at the junction of Braund Road aim to address the recent crash history at this location. Over a five year period (2009-2014), there have been 19 crashes recorded. Of the 19 crashes, 12 have involved drivers turning right from Braund Road onto Fitzroy Terrace, resulting in 3 casualties. The risk of this type of crash will increase if this change is not made, as adding an additional lane on Fitzroy Terrace will result in less storage space in the Park Terrace median for a right-turning vehicle to wait to find a gap in traffic.



Artist's impression of access changes to Braund Road

A recent traffic survey counted 242 drivers turning right from Braund Road to Fitzroy Terrace on a typical weekday. These movements will be redirected to turn left on Fitzroy Terrace and then use the new U-turn facility.

## Construction Program

Construction work is scheduled to commence in late June 2015 and is expected to take six months to complete, weather permitting.

To minimise traffic impacts, disturbance to the local community and improve safety for all road users and construction workers, some night works will be scheduled. Adjacent residents will be provided with advance notice of night work activities.

## Contact Us

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