

Study findings

Buses

Buses currently play an important role in the movement of people along and beyond the Gold Coast Highway corridor to a wide range of destinations. Consistent with the approach adopted in the previous stages of the light rail, some bus routes would be shortened or replaced (such as the current route 700 and 777 buses along the Gold Coast Highway), while other services would be maintained and potentially enhanced to offer better connectivity overall.

This study has identified the need for buses to continue to connect communities to the west of the Gold Coast Highway to key centres and interchanges with light rail. Connections between bus and light rail will be designed to be safe, convenient and accessible. Further work between TMR, TransLink and City of Gold Coast will confirm the design of transport interchanges and the network of services that use them to ensure it aligns with future planning.

Property impacts

TMR has been protecting the corridor over time for future upgrades. Setbacks are the distance between the kerb and the building. They are intended to be wide enough to accommodate a corridor that allows for pedestrians paths, landscaping, traffic lanes and light rail.

This study has confirmed the current planning is generally adequate for future requirements, however it will need further refinement as the level of design gets more detailed.

Timeframes



The purpose of this study is to confirm the long-term strategic direction for the Gold Coast Highway Corridor from Burleigh Heads to Tugun.

As for other light rail projects, any funding decision on a light rail extension would be the subject of a feasibility study and a Business Case. There is currently no funding allocated to progress to a Business Case for the extension of light rail south of Burleigh Heads through Palm Beach and Tugun.

Traffic analysis

A detailed traffic analysis process was undertaken to determine the number of traffic lanes, intersection configuration and performance of the Gold Coast Highway now and into the future. The analysis confirmed that the nearby M1 (Varsity Lakes to Tugun) upgrade will perform a critical transport function on the southern Gold Coast providing the opportunity to:

- accommodate a significant increase in vehicle demands including both local demands on service roads and regional demands on the motorway itself.
- improve local connections to the M1 and service roads including a new connection between the M1 and 19th Avenue.

This significant increase in capacity will provide through traffic with a viable alternative, reducing demand on the Gold Coast Highway. This provides an opportunity to redesign the Gold Coast Highway as a more multi-modal bike riding and pedestrian friendly corridor.

Through careful analysis of travel demands and traffic movements throughout the network, this study has identified the opportunity for some sections of the Gold Coast Highway to be reduced from four lanes to two lanes, in parts of Palm Beach and Currumbin without detrimental impacts on travel time and traffic capacity. This will involve a review of the number of intersections and the relocation of some right turns to ensure that traffic flow and property access is maintained. This will be further explored through consultation with the local community.

Consultation

We would like to hear your views on the outcome of the Gold Coast Highway (Burleigh Heads to Tugun) Multi-modal Corridor Study and find out what is important to you. You are invited to participate in our community consultation program to find out more and provide your input.

Visit the website to find out more about the study and provide your feedback. A series of community drop-in sessions will also enable you to ask questions and provide face-to-face feedback.

For further information visit:
www.tmr.qld.gov.au/goldcoasthwy multimodalstudy

Gold Coast Highway (Burleigh Heads to Tugun)

Multi-modal Corridor Study

March 2020

Planning for the future

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has undertaken a Multi-modal Corridor Study between Burleigh Heads and Tugun to review all previous planning and develop an updated transport strategy for this corridor. The study considered all transport modes including walking, bike riding, private vehicles and public transport to determine the preferred function of the Gold Coast Highway for the next 20 years.

This study found the Gold Coast Highway from Burleigh Heads to Tugun could be transformed into a high amenity community focused boulevard with priority given to walking, bike riding and a world class light rail system that enhances the liveability and character of the southern coastal suburbs.



Artist impression: Palm Beach Avenue

Light rail along the Gold Coast Highway

The study investigated several alternate routes parallel to the Gold Coast Highway and concluded a future southern extension of the light rail should follow the existing highway alignment. This would allow the light rail to service important cultural and urban attractions including the Burleigh Heads Village Centre, Palm Beach Village Centre, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Southern Cross University and importantly the Gold Coast Airport.

The Gold Coast Highway route was found to be the most direct and efficient of the corridors investigated. It also has the greatest potential for mode shift to public transport as it is close to where people already live, follows the alignment of the existing frequent bus route (700), and provides the potential to transform the Gold Coast Highway into the Gold Coast Boulevard through careful design and treatment.

The existing Gold Coast Highway alignment and current property setbacks along the corridor are adequate for future requirements and property impacts will be limited.

Providing a light rail extension down the Gold Coast Highway also means the heavy rail corridor adjacent to the M1 will remain protected for a future extension of the heavy rail which is intended to fulfil a longer distance regional transport function.

Contact us

If you would like further information, please contact the project team:

Phone: 07 5563 6600

(select option 3)

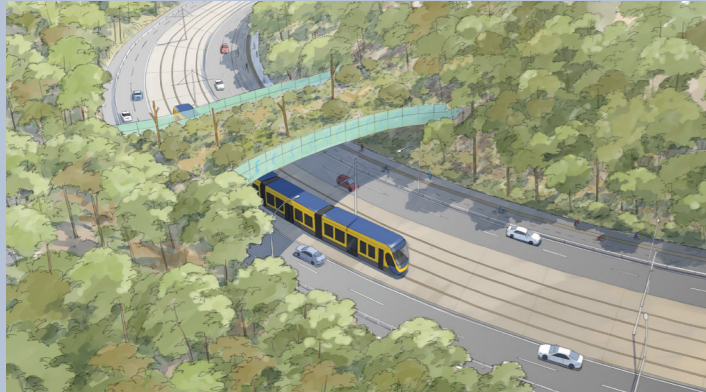
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The Gold Coast Highway from Burleigh Heads to Tugun could be transformed into a high amenity community boulevard with priority given to walking, bike riding and a world class light rail system that enhances the liveability and character of the southern coastal suburbs.



Artist impression: Burleigh Ridge Park environment land bridge for fauna



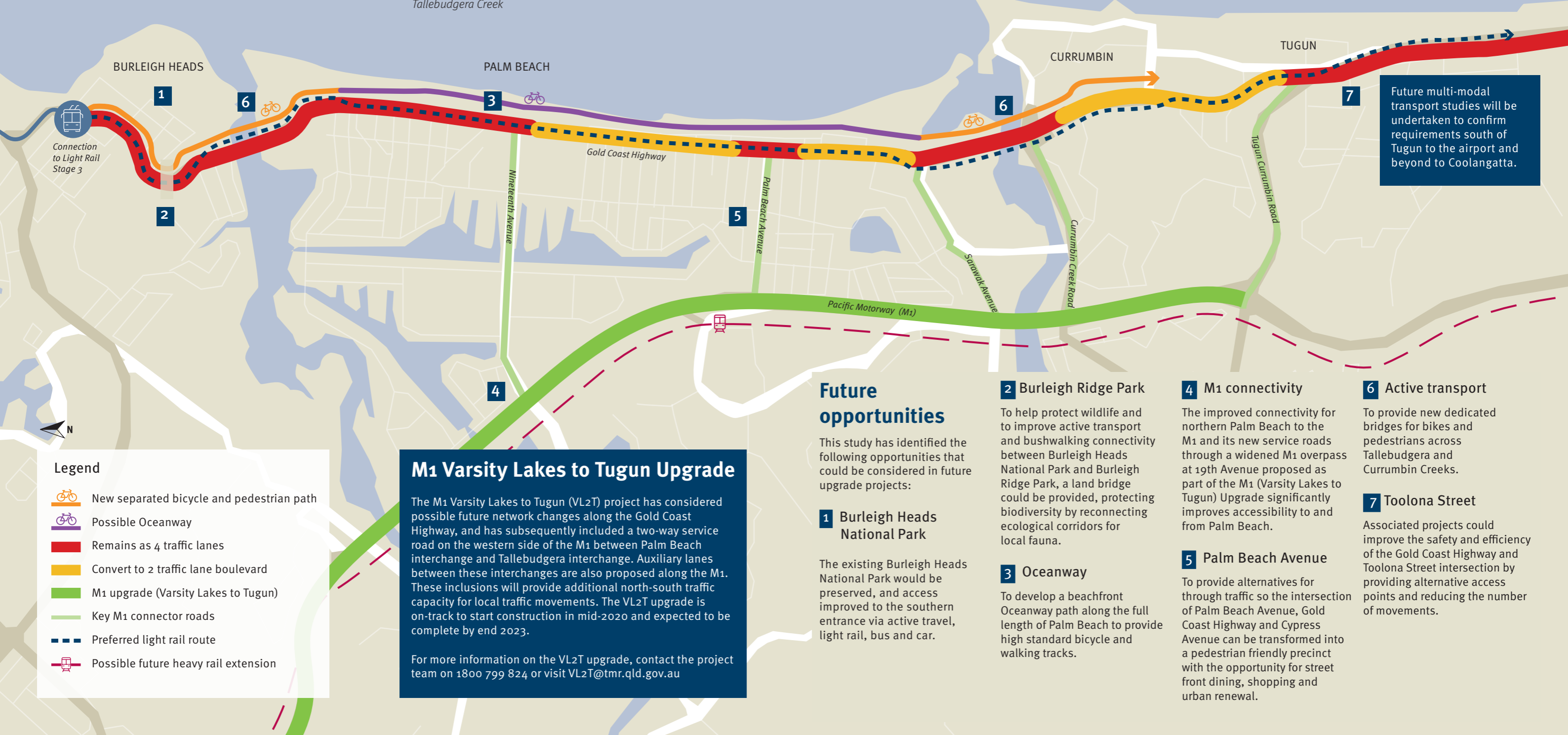
Artist impression: Active transport bridge, including bike riding, across Tallebudgera Creek



Artist impression: Oceanway at Palm Beach



Artist impression: Gold Coast Highway future perspective



M1 Varsity Lakes to Tugun Upgrade

The M1 Varsity Lakes to Tugun (VL2T) project has considered possible future network changes along the Gold Coast Highway, and has subsequently included a two-way service road on the western side of the M1 between Palm Beach interchange and Tallebudgera interchange. Auxiliary lanes between these interchanges are also proposed along the M1. These inclusions will provide additional north-south traffic capacity for local traffic movements. The VL2T upgrade is on-track to start construction in mid-2020 and expected to be complete by end 2023.

For more information on the VL2T upgrade, contact the project team on 1800 799 824 or visit VL2T@tmr.qld.gov.au

Future opportunities

This study has identified the following opportunities that could be considered in future upgrade projects:

1 Burleigh Heads National Park

The existing Burleigh Heads National Park would be preserved, and access improved to the southern entrance via active travel, light rail, bus and car.

2 Burleigh Ridge Park

To help protect wildlife and to improve active transport and bushwalking connectivity between Burleigh Heads National Park and Burleigh Ridge Park, a land bridge could be provided, protecting biodiversity by reconnecting ecological corridors for local fauna.

3 Oceanway

To develop a beachfront Oceanway path along the full length of Palm Beach to provide high standard bicycle and walking tracks.

4 M1 connectivity

The improved connectivity for northern Palm Beach to the M1 and its new service roads through a widened M1 overpass at 19th Avenue proposed as part of the M1 (Varsity Lakes to Tugun) Upgrade significantly improves accessibility to and from Palm Beach.

5 Palm Beach Avenue

To provide alternatives for through traffic so the intersection of Palm Beach Avenue, Gold Coast Highway and Cypress Avenue can be transformed into a pedestrian friendly precinct with the opportunity for street front dining, shopping and urban renewal.

6 Active transport

To provide new dedicated bridges for bikes and pedestrians across Tallebudgera and Currumbin Creeks.

7 Toolona Street

Associated projects could improve the safety and efficiency of the Gold Coast Highway and Toolona Street intersection by providing alternative access points and reducing the number of movements.