



Gold Coast City Transport Strategy 2031.

Technical Report



Foreword



As Mayor, improving our transport system is one of my top priorities. Getting transport right is essential for economic growth and to protect our Gold Coast lifestyle.

I want the Gold Coast to be a connected community, where families can live close to work, minutes from schools and have easy access to our incredible beaches and parks. By investing in public transport and getting the infrastructure priorities right, this strategy will see locals spend less time in traffic and more time enjoying our fantastic city. It will help to reduce congestion and lay the foundations for a more liveable, affordable and prosperous city.

While the car will continue to play an important role in the way we move around the Gold Coast, all growing cities reach a point where relying solely on the car is not the best option to meet the growing transport task.

The Gold Coast has reached that point. We are no longer a small, regional city. We are growing into a mature, world-class city and our transport system needs to grow and change accordingly.

This strategy outlines the things Council can do to improve the city's transport network. It also highlights how we will work together with the state and federal governments to improve public transport, roads, and walking and cycling facilities.

We know that funding will be tight over the next few years. That is why our strategy contains a balance of low-cost actions that get the most out of our existing infrastructure in the short-term, and major infrastructure projects that can be delivered once funding becomes available in the longer-term.

This strategy will make it quick and easy to get around the Coast and deliver a truly integrated transport network. It will give residents certainty about their transport options for decades to come and developers the confidence to begin investing again.

Thank you to the hundreds of local residents and businesses who have helped shape this strategy. This strategy provides the overarching framework that will shape the city's 10-year transport implementation plan and annual investment programs.

I look forward to working with you in the years ahead to bring this transport vision to life. Together, we can create a better transport future for the Gold Coast.

TOM TATE
Mayor, Gold Coast City



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Executive summary

Effective transport systems are integral to the success of any modern city – they connect us to our families, friends, jobs, amenities and communities.

This technical report underpins the *Gold Coast City Transport Strategy 2031*, which is our 20-year blueprint for the city's future transport network, with a key focus on the years leading up to the 2018 Commonwealth Games. It provides a plan to keep the city moving in the face of higher energy costs and increasing traffic congestion.

The Gold Coast is unique. It is a young, lineal city extending for some 70 kilometres, with multiple activity centres. The city plays host to more than 10.5 million tourists each year and thousands of day trippers from all around the region on any given weekend. We have some coastal areas with higher-density and good public transport, walking and cycling, and we also have large areas of low-density suburban development that are highly car-dependent. These factors have combined to create a strongly entrenched car culture and growing congestion.

If not addressed, congestion will cost the Gold Coast in reduced productivity, poorer health and a greater imbalance in work/ family life. The attractive lifestyle enjoyed by residents and visitors will be undermined. We have an opportunity in the lead-up to the 2018 Commonwealth Games to halt existing trends and start to create a future that is less car-dependent and more sustainable. Our vision for 2031 is that the Gold Coast:

- **enjoys smart growth** – the majority of new development is based on compact, mixed-use centres that are focused on high-quality public transport
- **is a connected city** – people and places are connected by an integrated, safe and efficient transport network
- **makes sustainable travel choices** – a significant proportion of Gold Coast residents and visitors choose to walk, cycle and take public transport as part of their daily travel.

This will be achieved by:

- **creating liveable places** – limiting urban sprawl, developing new communities around sustainable transport, and developing strong centres and high-quality public transport corridors
- **better parking management** – returning the revenue raised from parking into centre improvement schemes and better public transport services
- **providing excellent public transport** – delivering rapid bus corridors, expanding the light rail network, providing more park-and-ride in strategic locations, and providing more community transport services for the hinterland communities
- **encouraging more walking and cycling** – providing a safe and connected network of pathways
- **providing a well-managed road network** – catering for all road users, focusing on safe and efficient movement of people and goods, delivering a 'pinch point' program to improve road capacity, greater signal coordination, 'turn left on red' trials and removal of inefficient transit lanes
- **changing our travel behaviour** – undertaking schemes to encourage schools, workplaces and communities to walk, cycle, car pool and take public transport as part of their daily travel.

To achieve our transport vision, Council must work in partnership with the state and federal governments to deliver an integrated transport network, regardless of ownership or jurisdiction.