

Swan River Crossings - Fremantle Traffic Bridge



Bridge piling nears completion

The new Fremantle Traffic Bridge is taking shape with installation of new bridge piles almost complete.

Bridge piling is underway on the northern side of the bridge and is expected to be finished by the end of this month. This follows the installation of 14 permanent piles on the southern side of the bridge, which were driven down approximately 60 metres into the riverbed.

Piling is also underway to construct abutment retaining walls, which will support the new bridge structure. While preparing the works area, community members noticed that the brass orbs had been removed from the bridge. The orbs have been carefully placed in storage until the end of the project. Alternative uses for the orbs are being investigated in the urban and landscaping design process, with more information to be released in coming months.

We thank everyone for their ongoing patience during our works – especially the North Fremantle community located in close proximity to the project.



Figure 1: Abutment works on the southern side of the bridge in progress

Bridge foundations

Members of the community and passers-by may have also noticed the large concrete structures under construction on both the northern and southern sides of the bridge. These structures are pile cap shells and are approximately 14 metres long.

The shells are being placed on top of the piles, and then filled with steel reinforcement and concrete to provide a solid base for the bridge towers. Construction of the towers will begin once the pile caps are in place.



Figure 2: View outside the pile cap shell



Figure 3: View inside the pile cap shell – the 'circles' are pile 'cut outs'

Planning ahead for bridge closure and journey impacts

Building the new bridge on the same alignment as the existing bridge means we will need to close the existing bridge for approximately 12 months in late 2025. Significant planning is progressing to help manage the closure and keep traffic flow as smooth as possible. We are currently:

- Working with State and Local Government agencies to identify potential road modifications, including temporary changes to intersection layouts, extended turning pockets and modified traffic signals.
- Identifying how additional Intelligent Transport System initiatives can be used (e.g. cameras and Bluetooth devices to monitor traffic conditions).
- Working with Emergency Services (Police, Fire, Ambulance) to do scenario planning for possible incidents on Stirling Bridge and the nearby network.
- Fremantle Port Authority investigating freight management options.

We plan to communicate the proposed network changes once investigations and associated stakeholder consultations are complete.

State Government agencies are also working closely together to look at ways to reduce peak time demand on the road network during the closure. This includes assessing public transport capacity, including train and bus capacity and associated car/bike parking availability at stations. We will also encourage road users to examine how and when they travel. This includes consideration of the mode of travel, route choice, timings of travel, flexible work arrangements and carpooling.

Working with businesses

We have visited over 800 businesses in Fremantle to discuss the bridge closure and seek feedback. We are also working with the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Small Business Development Corporation to set up workshops to help businesses plan ahead for bridge closure. To sign up, contact us at hello@fremantlebridges.com.au.

We encourage the community to continue to support local businesses in the lead up to and during bridge closure.



Figure 4: Aerial view of the southern construction area

What we have heard from the community

In our last update, we asked the community to send through feedback and ideas on how to manage the road network during the bridge closure. We've received some comments on:

- modifying road intersections
- maximising bus and train movements
- encouraging people to change travel plans.

Top questions from community feedback

How can I access Fremantle?

As the traffic bridge is the key north-south route into Fremantle, we encourage people to start looking at alternatives such as public transport or changing road routes if public transport is not an option. Extra time will be needed for journeys to and from the City.

How can I prepare for bridge closure?

It's time to start re-assessing how you plan to travel throughout the area, particularly during peak periods, in advance of the closure. Options could include:

- Using public transport (buses and trains).
- Walk or cycle to destinations (e.g. school/work).
- Consider setting up a carpool for work, school or recreational trips.
- Travel outside peak times if possible.
- Look at flexible working arrangements.

Next Steps

We will confirm network modifications and public transport options and provide more information in coming months. Once the changes are finalised, they will be communicated extensively well in advance of the closure commencing. We welcome any community feedback via email to enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au.

Further Information

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Project, or scan the QR code. To sign up for Project Updates, click here. For enquiries, please phone 138 138 or email enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au.

