



‘TRAFFIC JAM PLAN’ **TO EASE CONGESTION AND** **IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY**

ACT Urban Services Minister, Brendan Smyth today announced a major funding package of \$130 million to improve the ACT’s road network. The funding will enable the construction of a number of new roads and the duplication and upgrade of a range of existing arterial roads across the city.

“This \$130 million funding package, which is the largest budget allocation for road improvements in the Legislative Assembly’s history, demonstrates the government’s commitment to improving the ACT’s road network,” Mr Smyth said.

“It’s essentially a ‘traffic jam plan’. It is a five year traffic congestion and road safety improvement program.

“The works will provide additional road capacity on a number of major arterial routes, which will not only reduce traffic congestion, but will lead to a reduction in overall travelling time.

“The funding will result in improved driver safety with greater accessibility on major roads, better conditions at major intersections and less cars on suburban streets during peak times. The works will also aid our public transport system by reducing delays due to traffic congestion and by providing more direct routes between major centres.

“The works will be complemented by the forward construction program for cycle-paths and increased allocations for footpaths. In addition, the design of the projects included in the initiative will examine opportunities for the provision of on-road cycling where appropriate.”

The major roads initiative involves expenditure of \$2.16 million in this financial year, which will provide for design work on the following projects:

- Gungahlin Drive duplication between Wells Station Road and the Barton Highway
- Flemington Road extension
- Gungahlin Drive extension (subject to the outcome of planning considerations)
- Cotter Road duplication between Streeton Drive and the Tuggeranong Parkway
- Drakeford Drive duplication between Taverner Street and Erindale Drive
- Majura Road safety upgrade
- Fairbairn Avenue duplication
- Intersection improvements on Northbourne Avenue at Ipima Street and Barry Drive



Brendan Smyth MLA

Australian Capital Territory

Minister for Urban Services

Member for Brindabella

..2..

Construction work will commence on the Flemington Road extension, intersection of Northbourne Avenue and Macarthur Street, and the intersection of Monaro Highway and Sheppard Street.

Over the following years construction of these projects will be completed, and design and construction work on the following projects will commence:

- Morsehead Drive / Pialligo Avenue duplication between Russell Drive and the airport
- Drakeford Drive duplication between Erindale Drive and Isabella Drive
- Barry Drive duplication between Clunies Ross Street and Marcus Clarke Street
- Horse Park Drive from Gundaroo Drive to Federal Highway
- Glenloch Interchange upgrade
- Athllon Drive duplication between Drakeford Drive and Isabella Drive
- William Hovell duplication between Coulter Drive and Bindubi Street

All projects are expected to commence and be completed within a five year time frame, except Athllon Drive, which will commence during the five year period and be completed in 2006/07.

Mr Smyth said a significant share of the funds to be spent over the five year program will go towards improving Gungahlin's transport system (\$46 million). Works in the Gungahlin area include the Gungahlin Drive extension (\$32m), Horse Park Drive construction (\$7m), the Flemington Road extension (\$4m) and the Gungahlin Drive duplication (\$3m).

Mr Smyth said an additional major road project – the duplication of the Barton Highway (\$12.3m) is being funded by the Commonwealth Government, having been recently announced in their budget.

The Federal budget allocated \$300,000 for planning and design work for the Barton Highway duplication, with a further \$12 million for construction in 2001-02.

“The ACT Government has set aside these funds to ensure that the city's road network, which is integral part of a thriving city with strong economic growth, continues to meet the needs of a growing population that demands a high standard of service delivery,” he said.

Statement ends / Tuesday 23 May 2000

Further information: Tamsin Davies, telephone 6205 0062 or 0418 633 145