



ACT Government

Improving Conditions for Motorists and Cyclists

Embargoed until 1 May 2001

Canberra's roads and cycle paths are in for major upgrades as part of the 2001-02 Budget, with **\$29 million committed to a range of projects under the ACT Government's continuing \$133 million 5-year Road Safety and Traffic Congestion Program, now into its second year.**

A number of significant projects have been brought forward for early commencement under the Program, ACT Minister for Urban Services Brendan Smyth announced today.

"This Budget also provides for a number of initiatives and ongoing capital works aimed at ensuring that we continue to meet the needs of a growing population, and that we continue to maintain and improve the ACT's road network," said Mr Smyth.

Projects due for early commencement of design in 2001-02 are:

- duplication of Caswell Drive;
- duplication of Drakeford Drive (from Erindale Drive to Isabella Drive);
- upgrading of Barry Drive intersections (between Clunies Ross and Marcus Clarke Streets);
- upgrading of Glenloch Interchange;
- duplication of Athllon Drive (from Drakeford Drive to Isabella Drive); and
- duplication of William Hovell Drive (from Coulter Drive to Bindubi Street).

Major construction works expected to commence in 2001-02 include:

- duplication of the Barton Highway from Northbourne Avenue to Bellenden Street;
- duplication of Fairbairn Avenue;
- upgrading of Majura Road; and
- Gungahlin Drive duplication from Wells Station Road to Barton Highway.

Construction works expected to be complete in 2001-02 are:

- duplication of Drakeford Drive from Taverner Street to Erindale Drive;
- duplication of Cotter Road from Streeton Drive to the Tuggeranong Parkway;
- upgrading of the Northbourne Avenue/Ipima Street intersection;
- upgrading of the Monaro Highway/Shepherd Street intersection; and
- Flemington Road extension.

"In considering the access needs of the people of Gungahlin, the Budget also provides for the early completion of the much-needed Gungahlin Drive extension, which is now programmed for completion in 2003-04, one year earlier than previously programmed.

ACT Budget 2001-02

Accelerated funding for this project will see \$1 million provided in 2001-02, \$16 million in 2002-03 and \$15 million in 2003-2004.

"The range of works under the Road Safety and Traffic Congestion Program are aimed at improving driver safety by providing 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.

"Further infrastructure works to benefit Canberra's motorists and cyclists are also planned under the \$20 million four year, Commonwealth-funded Roads to Recovery Program for local roads," said Mr Smyth.

Roads to Recovery projects already underway are:

- Upgrading of Sutton Road; and
- Duplication of Monaro Highway over Dairy Flat Road.

Cyclists will also benefit from projects funded under the Roads to Recovery Program, which provides for on-road cycling on the Monaro Highway and Belconnen Way/Barry Drive.

Mr Smyth also announced that \$980,000 will be allocated from the ACT Budget to improving a range of cycle paths around Canberra, and constructing on-road facilities in north and south Canberra.

Specific projects include:

- reconstruction of the Chifley bike path, between Hindmarsh Drive and Plunkett Street;
- construction of 2.5m wide bike path along western side of Athllon Drive between Soward Way and Barr Smith Road;
- improvements to on-road cycling for Belconnen Way and Parkes Way;
- construction of 2.5m wide bike path along Northbourne Avenue from the Netball Centre to the Barton Highway; and
- rehabilitation and replacement of bike paths along main trunk routes between Belconnen and City, Woden and City and Tuggeranong and Woden.

In addition, provision for on-road cycling is included in the following projects:

- Gungahlin Drive duplication from Wells Station Road to Barton Highway;
- Cotter Road duplication from Streeton Drive to Tuggeranong Parkway;
- Drakeford Drive duplication from Taverner Street to Erindale Drive; and
- Morshead Drive/Pialligo Avenue duplication from Russell Drive to airport.

"Also planned for Canberra's road network is \$847,000 for additional speed and red light cameras. This initiative will further the ACT Government's commitment to providing safer roads by targeting speeding and red light running, with an aim of preventing road trauma in the ACT for pedestrians, motorists and their passengers and cyclists.

“\$165,000 will also be provided in 2001-02 for continuing a public information campaign, and for evaluation and management of a two-year 50 km/h speed limit trial in the ACT’s residential streets which commenced this year. Based on the findings of similar trials undertaken in NSW, this trial is expected to provide significant road safety benefits in terms of reduced speeds and fewer traffic accidents.

“The ACT is widely recognised as having the best road and cycle path network in the country. This range of Territory and Commonwealth-funded capital works projects highlights the ACT Government’s commitment to maintaining our excellent standards of infrastructure and will provide significant safety and amenity benefits to Canberra’s motorists and cyclists,” said Mr Smyth.

Statement ends

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