MEDIA RELEASE

11 May 2012

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP ON UNION BRIDGE SAFETY SCREENS

The communities of Albury and Wodonga are invited to a workshop to provide feedback on the designs for the installation of safety screens on the Union Bridge on the old Hume Highway near Oddies Creek Park.

Member for Albury, Greg Aplin said Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is planning to install safety screens on the Union Bridge to prevent people jumping off the bridge and to improve safety for motorists.

“RMS takes this issue very seriously. Warning signs were installed in 2008 and NSW Police have been monitoring the location, however this is not deterring people from jumping off the bridge,” Mr Aplin said.

“Albury City Council and NSW Police have also advised RMS about people running across the northbound traffic lanes in order to jump over the pedestrian railing.

“This is a significant road safety issue for motorists travelling between Albury and Wodonga.”

“Previous attempts to discourage this dangerous activity have not succeeded and due to the nature of the bridge, any barrier will need specialist design and development.”

RMS has engaged the Government Architect’s Office to prepare preliminary designs of the safety screens.

“It is important to consult with key stakeholders and the community to ensure we identify any visual impacts to the Murray River area as a gateway to entering both NSW and Victoria,” Mr Aplin said.

The community is invited to a workshop on Wednesday 30 May from 6pm to 8pm. Light refreshments will be available.

“This is an opportunity for the community to provide feedback on the design of the safety screens.”

To register attendance at the workshop and receive venue details please contact the Project Manager Matthew Burns on 131 782 or 6938 1111 or email Wagga_Wagga_Regional_Office@rta.nsw.gov.au

The screens are expected to be installed by the end of 2012.

ENDS.

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