The RTA has progressed to the next stage of developing a proposal to widen the M5 South West Motorway and has prepared a submissions and preferred project report.

The report is now on display for community comment and feedback. Written comments and feedback to the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure will be received until Wednesday, 1 June 2011.

Background

In September 2010 the NSW Government placed the M5 West Widening Environmental Assessment on public exhibition. The environmental assessment considered the potential environmental, economic and social benefits and impacts of the proposed widening and identified measures to minimise these impacts.

During the public exhibition period, the community and stakeholders were invited to participate in the development of the proposal by making submissions to the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure.
Why the widening is needed
The NSW Government is working to deliver a high quality transport network that meets Sydney’s population, employment and economic needs now and into the future.

The M5 South West Motorway is one of Sydney’s busiest transport corridors and is used by more than 90,000 vehicles every day. It is a key road freight and commuter route and plays an important role in Sydney’s orbital network, linking Western Sydney with the CBD, Sydney Airport and Port Botany.

Benefits of the widening
The proposed M5 West widening would deliver much needed road capacity along the motorway and deliver the following benefits to the community and road users:

- Reduce congestion on the motorway.
- Support Sydney’s long term growth.
- Improve access between key population hubs, commercial and economic centres such as the Western Sydney Employment Hub.
- Increase capacity to service Sydney’s existing and future transport demands.
- Improve travel times for individuals and businesses.
- Improve traffic management with a new motorway control centre at Hammondville.
- Improve safety and provide early warning alerts for drivers on the motorway and arterial networks by providing additional variable message signs.

What is the M5 West widening?
The M5 West widening proposes to ease congestion on the motorway and surrounding roads and support the planned residential and employment growth in South West Sydney. The features of the proposal include:

- Widening the existing M5 South West Motorway west of King Georges Road to Camden Valley Way from two to three lanes in each direction.
- Upgrading three bridge underpasses along the motorway; Queen Street Bridge, Nuwarra Road Bridge and De Meyrick Avenue Bridge.
- Installing 22 new variable message signs on the motorway and critical roads around the motorway.
- Constructing a new motorway control centre at Hammondville.
Submissions and Preferred Project Report

Submissions received

Sixty seven submissions were received by NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure from the community and stakeholders. The key issues raised were potential noise and traffic impacts, tolling and construction impacts. Approximately 30% of all submissions stated support for the project. The following is a summary of the key issues raised. Full details can be found in the M5 West Widening Submissions and Preferred Project Report, May 2011.

Noise and vibration

Forty seven submissions related to potential increases in operational and construction noise and suggested ways that noise could be reduced or mitigated. Others related to the noise assessment methodology, testing locations and effects on quality of life.

Traffic

Twenty four submissions related to traffic and transport issues. Many suggested improvements to the way vehicles merged after Fairford Road (eastbound) and at the M5 East. Truck only lanes were also suggested to help manage the flow of traffic.

Tolling

Seven submissions were made about motorway tolls. Suggestions included alternative tolling regimes and tolling of the M5 East.

Construction

Sixteen submissions were received about construction impacts. Further details about the construction of the project were requested by those making submissions. A number of submissions asked that construction begin as quickly as possible.

The preferred project

Following consideration of the issues raised in the submissions and further studies and investigations, a number of changes have been made to the proposal. These are detailed in the M5 West Widening Submissions and Preferred Project Report, May 2011 that will be considered by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure when making a decision whether to approve the proposal.

Key proposed changes include:
- Additional new noise barriers.
- Increasing the height of many existing noise barriers.
- Line marking on the eastbound carriageway to provide three lanes between Fairford Road and King Georges Road.

Changes are also proposed to drainage design, configuration of traffic lanes at the toll plaza and management of construction.

These changes have been incorporated into the project in response to feedback received in submissions to the environmental assessment.

New noise barriers

The RTA has reviewed the noise and vibration technical studies used in the environmental assessment. Further studies and investigations have identified the need for additional noise barriers and improvements to existing noise barriers.

Around five kms of new noise barriers are now proposed. Around 15 kms of existing noise barriers will be increased in height.

Existing noise walls on the motorway
M5 West widening project overview

- **Eastbound widening generally in the median by one lane from Moorebank Avenue to Fairford Road.**
- **Westbound widening generally in the median by one lane from Hume Highway to Camden Valley Way.**
- **Northbound widening by line marking from King Georges Road to Fairford Road.**
- **Southbound widening by line marking from Fairford Road to Moorebank Avenue.**

**Proposed areas for variable message signs (VMS):**
- Nuwarra Road Bridge
- De Meyrick Avenue Bridge
- New Motorway Control Centre

**Existing and Proposed Bridges Upgrading:**
- De Meyrick Avenue Bridge
- Nuwarra Road Bridge
- Nuwarra Road Bridge
- New Motorway Control Centre

**Major works:**
- M5 South West Motorway
- M5 East
- De Meyrick Avenue Bridge
- Nuwarra Road Bridge
- New Motorway Control Centre

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How do I find out more?

To read the RTA’s responses to the previous submissions and to find out more about the new noise barriers and other changes to the project, you can review or download the M5 West Widening Submissions and Preferred Project Report, May 2011 from:

- NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure website – www.planning.nsw.gov.au
- RTA website – www.buildingsydneymotorways.com.au

Hard copies of these documents will be available for viewing from Wednesday, 18 May 2011 to Wednesday, 1 June 2011 at the following locations during office hours:

Roads and Traffic Authority,
Level 9, 101 Miller Street, North Sydney.
Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm.

NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure,
Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney.
Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm.

Nature Conservation Council of NSW,
Level 2, 5 Wilson Street, Newtown.
Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm.

Liverpool City Council,
Liverpool Central Library,
Library Plaza, 170 George Street, Liverpool.
Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm,
Saturday 9am – 4pm, Sunday 12 noon – 4pm.

Bankstown City Council,
Bankstown Library,
62 The Mall, Bankstown.
Monday to Friday, 9am – 8pm,
Saturday 9am – 4pm, Sunday 1pm – 4pm.

Riverwood Library,
Cnr Belmore Road and Roosevelt Avenue, Riverwood.
Monday and Thursday 10am – 8pm,
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10am – 5pm,
Saturday 9.30am – 12 noon.

How do I provide feedback?

Feedback on the M5 West Widening Submissions and Preferred Project Report is sought by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

The M5 West Widening Submissions and Preferred Project Report will be on public display until Wednesday, 1 June 2011.

You are invited to provide feedback on the submissions and preferred project report. Your feedback should include:

- Your name and address.
- Submission identification:
  M5 West Widening - application number 10_0052.
- A statement on whether you support or object to the information provided in the submissions and preferred project report.
- The reasons why you support or object to the information provided in the submissions and preferred project report.

Please send your written comments and feedback by 5pm on Wednesday, 1 June 2011 to:

Director, Infrastructure Projects
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001
Fax: (02) 9228 6366
Email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

Important new information if you are providing feedback

Please note that all feedback made to the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure during the public exhibition period will be posted on the department’s website. Your name will be removed to protect your privacy but you must request this.

For more information visit the Department of Planning and Infrastructure website at www.planning.nsw.gov.au
The next steps

- **MARCH 2010**
  RTA submits a major project application to the Director-General of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

- **MAY 2010**
  Director-General provides assessment requirements.

- **MAY 2010 - SEPTEMBER 2010**
  RTA prepares an environmental assessment.

- **SEPTEMBER 2010 - OCTOBER 2010**
  Environmental assessment on public display. Formal submissions invited.

- **NOVEMBER 2010**
  Department of Planning and Infrastructure provides RTA with a copy of the submissions to the assessment.

- **MAY 2011**
  RTA considers the submissions, revises the project, and prepares a submissions and preferred project report.

- **MAY 2011**
  Submissions and preferred project report on public display.
  Formal submissions invited. 18 May - 1 June 2011.

- **Assessment report prepared by the Director-General of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.**

- **Minister for Planning decides whether or not to approve the project and the conditions to be attached to any approval.**
If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to telephone the community information line on 1800 633 332.

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The Roads and Traffic Authority (“RTA”) is subject to the Privacy and Personal Information Act 1988 (“PIPP Act”) which requires that we comply with the Information Privacy Principles set out in the PIPP Act.

All information in correspondence is collected for the sole purpose of assisting in the assessment of this proposal. The information received, including names and addresses of respondents, may be published in subsequent documents unless a clear indication is given in the correspondence that all or part of that information is not published. Otherwise the RTA will only disclose your personal information, without your consent, if authorised by the law. Your personal information will be held by the RTA at 101 Miller Street, North Sydney NSW 2060. You have the right to access and and correct the information if you believe that it is incorrect.

For more information:
P 1800 633 332  E m5_west_widening@rtaw.nsw.gov.au  www.buildingsydneymotorways.com.au  

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