

MEDIA RELEASE

David Campbell MP
Minister for Transport
Minister for the Illawarra



IN-PRINCIPLE AGREEMENT REACHED FOR M2 UPGRADE

Tuesday 13 October 2009

Minister for Transport David Campbell today said the NSW Government and Transurban, the owner of the Hills M2, had signed an in-principle agreement to develop a major upgrade of the motorway.

Mr Campbell welcomed the in-principle agreement, which provided a green light for further design work, and an environmental assessment to proceed, in consultation with the community.

“This is great news for the thousands of bus commuters and motorists who use the M2 every day,” Mr Campbell said.

“The upgrade will reduce peak hour congestion and provide new access points to Sydney’s fastest growing business and residential centres. It has a current cost estimate of \$550 million.

“The project will also provide a significant jobs boost with an estimated 800 new direct jobs and 2,400 indirect jobs created through the life of the project.

“The M2, from Old Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills to Epping Road, North Ryde, is one of Sydney’s busiest transport corridors, with 17,000 bus commuters and more than 100,000 motorists using it each work day.”

Mr Campbell said the upgrade would be funded by Transurban, with the NSW Government contributing by extending the M2 concession by four years, and allowing for a one-off increase in the toll of around 8 per cent on completion of the work.

“The upgrade will include widening the tunnel in both directions and reinstating the emergency breakdown lane westbound between Lane Cove Road and Beecroft Road, used by cyclists,” Mr Campbell said.

“The speed limit will also be lifted to 100kmh and access from the Sydney orbital to Windsor Road and Macquarie Park will be greatly improved.”

The in-principle agreement was reached following negotiations over the technical and commercial details of the project.

The upgrade will also include:

- New west facing Windsor Road on and off ramps
- An additional eastbound lane from Windsor Road to Pennant Hills Road
- An additional eastbound lane from Pennant Hills Rd through M2 Tunnel to Lane Cove Road
- New Christie Road eastbound on ramp
- New Herring Road westbound off ramp
- Widening between Lane Cove Road and Beecroft Road to reinstate the 3.5 metre traffic lanes and 2.5 metre breakdown shoulder
- Additional lane westbound from Beecroft Road to Pennant Hills Road.

M2 toll points will be based at new ramps on Windsor Road, Christie Road and Herring Road. The toll will be introduced once the new ramps and lanes are open to traffic.

Transurban CEO Chris Lynch said the in-principle agreement was a great step forward for a project that would demonstrate the benefits of Government partnering with the private sector to meet Sydney's infrastructure needs.

"We are pleased to have reached an in-principle agreement with the NSW Government and will continue to work closely with them over the next year to finalise the agreement and deliver much needed congestion relief to this busy corridor," Mr Lynch said.

"Projects like the M2 Upgrade show that by working together it is possible to deliver outcomes that work for the community, government and private sector partners."

The next stage of the process is to prepare a thorough environmental assessment for the project. This assessment will be put on public display and the community will be given an opportunity to provide feedback.

Work is expected to begin in 2010 and be completed within two years. Work will proceed once appropriate planning approvals are achieved and after a contract is agreed for the delivery phase of the work.

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