

Minister for Transport Rachel Nolan's media release 12 March 2010

The world is coming to build the Gold Coast Rapid Transit project.

Six consortiums from Australia and overseas are now vying to build Stage One of the Gold Coast Rapid Transit system after submissions for Expressions of Interest closed last week.

Transport Minister Rachel Nolan said, "The submissions are from a range of international light-rail operators, Australian and international financiers, vehicle builders and construction companies. Historically major Queensland projects calling for Expressions of Interest attract between two and four submissions. The fact six consortia want to work with the Queensland Government highlights the significance of this project."

Bidders include a number of respected international companies from Canada, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Scotland, Singapore and Spain along with a strong contingent of Australian based companies from Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.

"The Queensland Government is seeking a long term partner with the right mix of experience, vision and innovation to operate, maintain and construct a modern high capacity light rail public transport system for Australia's sixth largest city," Ms Nolan said.

Gold Coast Mayor Ron Clarke said the successful bidder for the Operator Franchise will need staff to run and maintain the system, bringing a new long term employer to the city. "The Gold Coast Rapid Transit project will become a vital part of the city's public transport network well into the future and will be seen as an iconic feature of one of Australia's most loved cities," Mayor Clarke said. Member for Southport Peter Lawler, Member for Broadwater Peta-Kaye Croft and Member for Burleigh Christine Smith said the level of interest from these multi national companies wanting to build and run Queensland's first light rail system shows significant confidence in the Gold Coast as an investment hub.

The Expressions of Interest will be evaluated by the project in the coming months before Government announces a shortlist of companies who will progress to the detailed bid phase.

More information

View the full list of bidders and the Invitation for Expressions of Interest document on the project website <http://www.goldcoastrapidtransit.qld.gov.au/pages/20100315.php>

Helensvale preferred option announcement

The project team undertook consultation and detailed comprehensive planning on route options in the Helensvale area in 2007-08, canvassing two options, one via Parkwood and one via Olsen Ave.

On 24 February 2010 the Queensland Government and Gold Coast City Council confirmed the preferred corridor option Griffith University to Helensvale via Harbour Town and have been providing property owners with information on potential property impacts based on early indicative planning.

A future stage for the Gold Coast Rapid Transit project is another step closer now that the Queensland Government and Gold Coast City Council have endorsed the preferred route connecting Griffith University to Helensvale.

The preferred route will travel from Griffith University (Parklands Drive Southport) along Olsen Avenue to Brisbane Road, terminating at the Helensvale Rail Station. The route will enhance accessibility along the corridor, encourage jobs growth, and lead to opportunities for land development and the expansion and integration of the regional transport network.

When will the Helensvale corridor be constructed?

There is no intention or requirement to construct the Helensvale corridor before 2016. Investigations and forecasts have shown that the existing road network and public transport system will sufficiently cater to medium term population growth in the area.

More information

Read more about this in the project media centre of the Gold Coast Rapid Transit web site at <http://www.goldcoastrapidtransit.qld.gov.au/publications/media-centre.php>

For property-related enquiries, contact the project Property team on 1800 967 377.