Sippy Downs Drive Upgrade Stage 4

About the project

Construction will start next month on the final (fourth) stage of the Sippy Downs Drive Upgrade between the Sunshine Motorway and Siena Catholic College. The upgrade will improve safety for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians, help to improve traffic flow (particularly in peak periods), cater for future expected traffic capacity and create an attractive entry statement into Sippy Downs. The design has been considered as part of the Sippy Downs Town Centre Masterplan.

The work involves:

- the duplication of traffic lanes in both directions along Sippy Downs Drive to enable four lanes of traffic (two each way)
- changing the existing roundabout at University Way/Sippy Downs Drive to become a four-way signalised intersection
- creating a new four-way signalised intersection at Sippy Downs Drive Service Road/Sippy Downs Drive/‘W-street’
- upgrading the Sippy Downs Service Road to work with the new signalised intersection including the re-alignment of the centre and western exits and adjusting the eastern entry/exit to be a one-way entry and cul-de-sac
- new street lighting
- increasing the number and density of trees in the landscaped buffer between the Sippy Downs Service Road and Sippy Downs Drive (staged over multiple years).
- an opportunity for public art as part of the entry statement.

Please refer to the plans on the last pages of this newsletter to view the road upgrade design.

Trees and landscaping

The project will include the planting of approximately 200 new trees and plants over a period of two years. Native species including Eucalyptus and Melaleuca will support the Sippy Downs Masterplan’s vision of a ‘Town in the Bush’.

To accommodate the road upgrade, some trees must be removed including the large fig tree currently on the University Way/Sippy Downs Drive roundabout. Council investigated transplanting the fig tree, however due to its size, the high costs involved and the low chance that it would survive, it is not possible. This area will become a new four-way signalised intersection improving safety and traffic flow.

Although the fig tree cannot be transplanted, council recognises the tree’s significance to the Sippy Downs community. Council has propagated saplings from the existing tree which are being grown in council’s nursery. They will be planted around the area so the tree will live on within the community.

Figure 1- Propagated cuttings from fig tree growing
Indicative construction timeline

Construction will take place from September 2018 to December 2019. Construction works will be staged to help keep two-way traffic flow throughout the construction period and minimise inconvenience to residents and visitors.

The two new traffic lanes will be constructed first and traffic temporarily moved/’flipped’ onto the new roads. The old traffic lanes will then be upgraded before all four lanes are opened.

To expedite the project, construction will take place from Monday to Saturday and during the day and night. Works will continue throughout school holiday periods but exclude public holidays.

- **August 2018** – Site office set up, service relocations and earthworks.
- **Late September 2018 – December 2019** Road widening and realignment. Street lighting installed. First stage of planting to service road median and other landscaping.
- **Future works TBA.** Earthworks, pathways and additional street planting coordinated with current private developments in the project area.

All work is subject to favourable weather and site conditions.

What to expect during construction

Council will make every effort to minimise impacts to road users and the local community during construction. However, throughout the period there will be:

- changed traffic conditions – reduced speed limits, temporary lane closures, traffic and pedestrian realignments
- increased heavy vehicle movements
- construction noise
- night work.

The project team will continue to liaise with directly affected businesses, schools and residents to inform them of specific construction activities, timeframes and impacts.

Traffic management measures will be in place during construction to ensure the safety of pedestrians and motorists.

Further information

For further information about the Sippy Downs Drive Upgrade project, please visit the website at www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au or contact the project team on:

E: sippydowns@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Or council’s customer service team (please quote Sippy Downs Drive project).

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A note from your local councillor

This important upgrade to Sippy Downs Drive will enable residents and visitors to enjoy a safer and less congested traffic experience. I am very pleased that council has been able to incorporate a significant number of new trees and plants as part of the landscape design including figs grafted from the existing roundabout fig tree. The new entry statement will be a welcoming arrival to Sippy Downs. We kindly ask for your patience during construction.

Cr Christian Dickson, Division 6.
Figure 2: Sippy Downs Drive Upgrade Stage 4 [West]
Figure 3: Sippy Downs Drive Upgrade Stage 4 [East]