As part of the project, the M4 motorway is being widened between Parramatta and Homebush from three to four lanes in each direction, alleviating congestion.

What’s happened so far?

Since project approval fifteen months ago, and the start of major work in March 2015, fantastic progress has been made to date in delivering the $500 million M4 Widening Project. Work cranes and piling rigs can be seen along the motorway corridor and are daily reminders of the progress in construction of the elevated motorway from Junction Street, Silverwater to Church Street, Parramatta. Significant progress has also been achieved in pavement construction allowing for the first of many traffic switches. Traffic near Homebush Bay Drive has been realigned into the centre of the motorway to allow for construction on the shoulders of the motorway. The Hill Road westbound on-ramp has now been upgraded to facilitate the motorway widening.

We look forward to delivering the next stages of the project over the coming months and keeping you informed of this progress.

Work is underway on WestConnex which involves widening and extending the M4 and M5 and joining them to create a free-flowing motorway network.
What’s happening across the project now?

Purpose built construction yard

An innovative feature of the project is the construction of a purpose-built precast yard to produce the majority of the concrete materials from scratch for the 7.5 kilometres of new motorway and bridge structures.

The precast yard at Adderley Street West, Auburn reduces the need to rely on existing supply chains to ensure the project can be delivered on time.

To date, 129 concrete beams have been produced, weighing a combined 12,900 tonnes. The impressive yellow overhead gantry cranes in the precast yard are vital in moving the individual 100 tonne beams. The beams move on rails along the length of the precast yard and stand at a height of just over 16 metres. The cranes are used in tandem to lift the beams from the concrete moulds and to load concrete beams onto trucks for delivery to the various sites.

Elevated road construction

Work to build the new elevated road is well underway commencing with the installation of the first span over the Carlingford railway line in January 2016. This significant work involved a crane lift and the installation of four bridge beams over the railway line.

A significant milestone has been achieved, with the first concrete deck pour completed on Wednesday, 4 May 2016. The deck pour followed the installation of the first span of the main elevated road over the Carlingford railway line in January 2016.

This milestone marks the first pour of 49 decks required.

Tolling gantry construction

Ten of fourteen tolling points have been installed along the M4 motorway. Toll accuracy testing is underway which means motorists will hear a beep, but they won’t be charged until the M4 Widening work is open to the public next year. WestConnex will use distance-based tolling, a fairer and more equitable system, where motorists only pay for the section of road they use.

Fox Street underpass closure

As part of the M4 Widening, work commenced in May 2016 to extend the Fox Street, Holroyd shared path underpass. Works are occurring on the southern side of the motorway with a cyclist and pedestrian detour in place during these works.

These works involve the construction of new safety barriers, retaining and noise walls. A precast concrete roof element will also be installed to extend the underpass.

M4 motorway night closures

Over the coming months the M4 motorway will be closed intermittently at night, between the hours of 11:00pm and 5:00am, from Parramatta Road, Concord to Church Street, Parramatta. These night works will affect westbound lanes and eastbound lanes at different dates.

Traffic control and detour signage will also be in place to direct motorists.

For the latest live traffic updates and more information on these closures, visit livetraffic.com, download the Live Traffic NSW App for iPhone, iPad and Android or call the Traffic Information Line on 132 701.

What’s coming up?

New noise walls

New, lightweight concrete panelled noise walls will be installed parallel to the M4 motorway along Railway Street to Pitt Street, Granville and in the vicinity of Fox Street, Holroyd. The first noise wall installation will commence on the northern side of the motorway and is expected to take six months to complete.

Temporary night closures of James Ruse Drive westbound on ramp

In order to construct the headstock on top of the piers over the westbound on ramp at James Ruse Drive, temporary night closures are required for a period of eight weeks to enable construction.

The temporary night closures between the hours of 11:00pm and 4:30am, will start from mid June 2016. Road detours will be in place to allow the full closure of the James Ruse Drive westbound on ramp. We thank motorists in advance for their patience and cooperation during the road closures.

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Minimising traffic impacts

It is an enormous challenge to keep more than 140,000 vehicles moving through the project corridor with a speed limit of 80 kilometre per hour. This requires complex construction staging and a considerable amount of night work.

The M4 Widening project team is working closely with key traffic and transport stakeholders including emergency services, bus companies and operators, Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Sydney Markets, NRMA and other motoring groups to ensure traffic impacts are minimized as best as possible.

The M4 Widening project team is working hard to keep traffic moving during construction while maintaining safety for workers and motorists at all times. During construction:

- three westbound lanes and three eastbound lanes will remain open during peak hour travel times at a speed limit of no less than 80 kilometres per hour
- the majority of lane closures are scheduled to occur at night
- concrete safety barriers have been installed to separate work zones from traffic lanes.

For the latest traffic updates, please visit livetraffic.com, download the Live Traffic NSW App for iPhone, iPad and Android or call the Traffic Information Line on 132 701.