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A render of the GC Surfer station at Carrara Stadium, People First Stadium.

PREMIER UNVEILS THE GC'S 'MISSING LINK' BUS PLAN

Andrew Potts

New services to connect light and heavy rails, stadiums

Two metro-style bus services will fill the "missing link" connecting the light and heavy rails, as well as the two stadiums, on the Gold Coast.

The next stage of the GC Surfer bus services will run from Broadbeach to Nerang and Miami to Robina, and will include major road upgrades and new stations.

Premier David Crisafulli will unveil the project at the Bulletin's Future Gold Coast Smart City forum at Sea World on Friday, and said it would be in place for the 2032 Olympic Games.

"We are expanding the Gold Coast transport network with the missing East-West frequent links from Nerang to Broadbeach and Robina to Miami," he said.

"This is not only about getting Gold Coasters home sooner and safer, but also about delivering generational transport infrastructure for 2032 and beyond.

"These are the next projects in a plan to deliver generational road and rail for the growing Gold Coast."

Mr Crisafulli will be interviewed onstage during the event by The Courier-Mail editor Chris Jones.

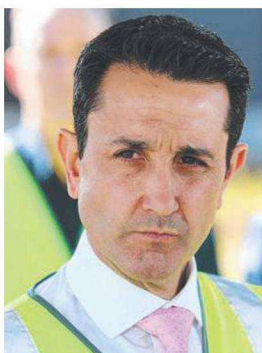
The Broadbeach to Nerang route will run every 15 minutes and will connect the convention centre with the Carrara sports precinct where a new station and overpass will be created above Nerang-Broadbeach Rd.

It will require significant upgrades to the arterial road including its widening from four to six lanes between Nielsens Rd and Gooding Drive.

Other upgrades include widening Dunlops Canal Bridge at Broadbeach; extending bus lanes and signalising Cocos Crescent intersection; and improvements to active transport facilities along the corridor.

The Miami to Robina route will also run every 15 minutes and connect the light rail with Robina Town Centre and Bond University. These corridors were previously identified as possible light rail spur lines.

It comes after the Bulletin



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David Crisafulli
Queensland Premier

launched Get the Coast Moving, exploring transport congestion solutions in the wake of the state government axing light rail stage four in September 2025.

The Gold Coast City Council first proposed electric buses to link the light and heavy rails via the stadiums more than six years ago. It was expected to be jointly funded by the council and state government, with buses able to carry up to 100 passengers and arrive at stops at maximum intervals of 10 minutes, operating all day.

But the project never moved beyond the planning stage.

The two GC Surfer services are the next stage of the state government's Gold Coast Transport Plan, which was unveiled in June.

The initial stage of the plan included a metro-style bus system which would run every 10 minutes between Robina, Varsity Lakes, Burleigh Heads, Gold Coast Airport and Coolangatta.

It will also include a light rail spur line to Harbour Town, which will have three stations at Musgrave Ave, Labrador and Biggera Waters.

The government says money was set aside in the

June budget, but no figures have been publicly released under a state policy of not announcing a price tag until contracts have been signed.

The northern light rail spur will see the creation of a transport hub at the shopping centre, which its owner, Lewis Land, have flagged will have the potential to allow for further extensions.

Lewis Land head of development Michael Long said the transit hub would be created near the centre's Eats precinct, where the existing bus station would also be relocated.

"The light rail coming to Harbour Town is a real game changer for the whole of the northern Gold Coast and we do already have a bus interchange that is going to move over to be aligned right next to the light rail which will be a really convenient link not only into the centre but across to the Harbor Shores development where ultimately we will have 4000 residents living," he said earlier this month.

"It's also the springboard to

go further north towards Hope Island and west as well for future rail connections."

Transport Minister Brent Mickelberg confirmed the heavy rail corridor between Varsity Lakes and the Gold Coast Airport would continue to be preserved, as it has been for nearly 20 years, for a potential future train extension.

"Under the Gold Coast Transport Plan we are preserving the rail corridor through from Varsity Lakes through to the Gold Coast Airport for future upgrades," he said.

"We are delivering the transport to make it easier for commuters to get to work, students to where they study, and tourists from one end of the Gold Coast to the other – and it'll mean more cars off the road and less time in traffic."

There are currently no plans to extend the heavy rail further south, with the most recent extension from Robina to Varsity Lakes, completed in late 2009.

The upgrade and expansion of the city's transport network has been a key talking point during the previous two weeks and the Future Gold Coast campaign.

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