

Looking south east towards the new rail bridge at Ruthven Street, Macleod. Artist's impression – subject to change.



Ruthven Street, Macleod, March/April 2026

# First look at Macleod's new rail bridge



## We're removing the level crossing at Ruthven Street, Macleod by building a rail bridge over the road.

We're also building a new walking and cycling path along Ellesmere Parade from Ruthven Street to Davies Street and a new signalised pedestrian crossing near the new rail bridge providing safer, more direct connections.

Concept designs are available and we want the local community to help refine them and have their say.

Thanks to everyone who shared their local insights last year. Your feedback has shaped the concept designs.

The new rail bridge over Ruthven Street provides opportunities for

new landscaped spaces, seating and walking and cycling connections.

Removing the level crossing will cut almost half an hour of boom gate down time during the morning peak, saving travel time for around 12,600 drivers each weekday. With Macleod and Rosanna level crossing free, it will also improve safety, reduce congestion and deliver more reliable travel times, building on the benefits unlocked by the North East Link Project.

Construction will start later this year, with the boom gates gone for good and trains running on the new rail bridge in 2027.

## Why this level crossing needs to go



About **12,600 vehicles** travel through this level crossing each day



Boom gates are down for nearly **half an hour** of the morning peak (7am to 9am)



Up to **28 trains** travel through this crossing during the morning peak (7am to 9am)



## Concept designs feedback

We want your feedback on the concept designs to help shape the final designs.

Scan the QR code or visit [engage.vic.gov.au/lxrp-ruthven-street](https://engage.vic.gov.au/lxrp-ruthven-street) to view the concept designs, share your feedback, ask the team a question and sign up for an information session.

Complete our concept design feedback survey by **11.59pm, Sunday 26 April 2026**.



Sign up for updates  
[levelcrossings.vic.gov.au](https://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au)



# Macleod's new rail bridge



## Last November and December, we asked the community how they travel in the area and what they value about Macleod and Rosanna.

Thanks to everyone who had their say. We received more than 250 pieces of feedback through our surveys, information sessions, planning submissions, questions on Engage Victoria and through our contact centre.

Your local insights, alongside technical and engineering requirements, helped shape the concept designs.



### Designs that complement the area

We heard you want the rail bridge to complement the area with natural colours, features and architectural finishes.

The bridge design has been influenced by Macleod's landscape, drawing inspiration from Rosanna Parklands, featuring earthy tones for the bridge screening and colour palette.

**You can provide more feedback on elements of the bridge design and landscaping in our concept design survey.**



### Landscaping and native plantings

You told us you'd like to see native and local plants and landscaping as part of the project. The design will feature new landscaped spaces under the rail bridge and along the new walking and cycling path on Ellesmere Parade.

The planting will feature species suited to the local area and conditions to ensure their long-term suitability and fit with the natural surroundings.

We also heard about the importance of minimising impacts to the local flora and fauna and the number of trees removed.

Throughout the project, we'll work closely with environment and sustainability specialists to minimise impacts to flora and fauna. For every tree we remove, we'll plant two new trees.



### Better connections for pedestrians and bike riders

You told us you want better connections for pedestrians and bike riders.

We're building a new walking and cycling path along Ellesmere Parade from Ruthven Street to Davies Street. This section of the path is the missing link between existing paths on McNamara Street and Ellesmere Parade.

We're also building a new signalised pedestrian crossing near the rail bridge, improving safety for everyone crossing Ruthven Street.

The signalised crossing will connect the new walking and cycling path along Ellesmere Parade with the existing McNamara Street path.

Looking west to the new rail bridge from Chapman Street, Macleod.  
Artist's impression – subject to change.



Looking south underneath the new rail bridge towards Rosanna Parklands and the new landscaped space.  
Artist's impression – subject to change.



## Minimise disruptions and construction impacts

Construction will begin later this year and we'll share more information before works start.

To safely build the new bridge, there will be times when buses replace trains, as well as temporary closures of Ruthven Street at the level crossing.

We're planning our construction methodology to minimise disruption for the community and passengers along the Hurstbridge Line wherever possible. We're also coordinating closely the North East Link Project, to align works and reduce disruptions.

## Find out more

To find out more about what we heard, read the consultation report at [levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/ruthven-consultation-report](https://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/ruthven-consultation-report)

## Get involved to learn more

Join our information sessions to talk to the team, ask questions and find out more about Macleod's new rail bridge and walking and cycling path.

### Online via Zoom

- Wednesday 15 April, 6pm to 7pm

### Join us in person

- Monday 13 April, 5.30pm to 8.15pm
- Thursday 16 April, 10am to 12.45pm
- Macleod Community Hall, 7 Birdwood Avenue, Macleod

### Registration is essential

Book your spot or ask the project team questions by visiting [engage.vic.gov.au/lxrp-ruthven-street](https://engage.vic.gov.au/lxrp-ruthven-street)



### Have your say

We want the local community to have their say, which along with our technical requirements will help us shape the final designs which will be released in the coming months.

Scan the QR code or visit [engage.vic.gov.au/lxrp-ruthven-street](https://engage.vic.gov.au/lxrp-ruthven-street) to view the concept designs and share your feedback.

Complete our survey by **11.59pm, Sunday 26 April 2026.**



Looking north east towards McNamara Street and the new rail bridge over Ruthven Street in Macleod. Artist's impression – subject to change.

# Major works as part of M80 Ring Road completion

Work is progressing to complete the M80 Ring Road by seamlessly connecting it to the North East Link tunnels, passing traffic under Grimshaw Street, Elder Street and Watsonia Road—keeping local roads for local trips.

From March through May, you can expect nighttime lane closures with detours on Greensborough Highway and a full closure of Greensborough bypass for one weekend. Local roads like Elder and Kempston streets will be closed for up to six weeks as the project works to build the Elder Street landscaped bridge and the new Kempston Street bridge.

### Upcoming disruptions

The way you move around the area will be changing this year as traffic is shifted to completed roads and excavation of the new freeway lanes ramps up to connect to the North East Link tunnels.

See how disruptions may affect your travel at [bigbuild.vic.gov.au/disruptions](http://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/disruptions)



### Project timeline

-  **2022**  
Project announced
-  **2024**  
Site investigations
-  **2025**  
Site investigations  
Community consultation
-  **2026**  
Concept designs released and further community consultation  
Final designs released  
Site establishment and early works  
Construction starts
-  **2027**  
Construction  
Trains running on the rail bridge  
Level crossing removed  
New walking and cycling path open  
Project complete

\* Timeline subject to change.

## Stay up to date

The best way to stay up to date with the project is to:

-  Visit [levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/ruthven-street](http://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/ruthven-street)
-  View the concept designs and a map of the project, have your say and ask a question at [engage.vic.gov.au/lxrp-ruthven-street](http://engage.vic.gov.au/lxrp-ruthven-street)
-  Subscribe to email updates at [levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/subscribe](http://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/subscribe) and under Hurstbridge Line select Ruthven Street
-  Call us on **1800 105 105** or email [levelcrossings@bigbuild.vic.gov.au](mailto:levelcrossings@bigbuild.vic.gov.au)
-  Follow us on social media by searching [@levelcrossings](https://www.facebook.com/levelcrossings) or send us a private message on our Facebook page

[levelcrossings.vic.gov.au](http://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au)

[levelcrossings@bigbuild.vic.gov.au](mailto:levelcrossings@bigbuild.vic.gov.au)



For languages other than English, please call 9209 0147.

1800 105 105 (call anytime) 

Please contact us if you would like this information in an accessible format. If you need assistance due to a hearing or speech impairment, visit [relayservice.gov.au](http://relayservice.gov.au)

