

Why are you carrying out safety improvements on Conroy Street?

The Hume Highway and Conroy Street intersection at Bookham has been identified for safety improvements. There is a history of crashes at this location with the majority involving turning vehicles and rear end crashes. Approximately 10,000 vehicles travel through the intersection daily making safety improvements at this location a priority.

What improvements have been carried out so far?

Transport has carried out minor work to improve intersection safety which included:

- upgrading signage
- improving sight lines by removing vegetation
- painting and extending the raised centre median to increase visibility.

What was the result of the monitoring cameras?

The monitoring cameras were installed at the northern and southern end of the intersection for six months from December 2020 to June 2021. During that time 681 incidences were recorded. These included two crashes, vehicles driving dangerously, vehicles blocking access when queuing in the intersection and illegal traffic turns.

What are the features of the updated design?

The updated design includes:

- closure of the right-turn out lane from the rest area side of Conroy Street
- closure of the southbound lane and right turn lane into the recreation grounds
- building a U-turn bay for southbound vehicles to enter the northbound carriageway.

Won't a U-turn bay confuse motorists?

The U-turn bay will be clearly marked with signage to advise motorists how to safely navigate to the northbound lane directing them to Hume Highway's northbound carriageway or to the recreation ground.

We have found the current intersection layout is being confused as a roundabout.

Why was the U-turn bay removed from the north end?

We heard the community's concerns regarding access to Bookham. We analysed traffic movements from the camera monitoring that showed there were minimal safety incidents and therefore no need to move access to Bookham.

Has this style of U-turn bay been used in other locations?

Yes, a similar U-turn bay has been installed on the Pacific Highway at Grays Road intersection north of Coffs Harbour, where traffic volumes are similar. There are plans to install a similar U-turn bay as part of the Barton Highway upgrade at the Rolfe Road intersection, with traffic volumes slightly higher than the Hume Highway at Bookham.

Why can't an acceleration lane be installed instead?

An acceleration lane was investigated as part of the design process however it would impact private property during the build process. Our cameras monitored the area and the recorded movements over the six-month period found its benefits would be minimal.

How will removing northbound access on Conroy Street to the recreation grounds improve safety?

Closing the north lane access to the recreation grounds will remove confusion for motorists who may forget that they are crossing two carriageways of the highway with traffic travelling at 110 km/h.

We also monitored vehicles using the current intersection as a roundabout. Removing the north lane access and replacing it with a U-turn bay further down will remove this confusion and provide clear direction to motorists on how to safely enter the Hume Highway's northbound carriageway.

Our cameras monitored vehicles blocking lanes as they queued in the median to cross over, which is a dangerous hazard for highway traffic.

Will heavy vehicles be able to use the U-turn bay?

Yes, the U-turn bay will be designed to cater for semi-trailer heavy vehicles up to 19 metres in length. The U-turn bay will include a dedicated lane that will mean heavy vehicles won't be blocking access to incoming traffic.

What are the next steps?

Transport for NSW will carefully consider all feedback received and use this to determine if the project will progress.

How can I submit my feedback?

Feedback can be submitted on the proposed safety improvements by Friday 30 June 2023 via

E: SouthProjects@transport.nsw.gov.au

P: 0407 064 157

M: Hume Highway at Bookham safety improvements, PO Box 484, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650