

NorthLink WA is now in its final stages with the southern section, one of the three projects making up this \$1.02 billion initiative, now complete and the central section on track to finish mid-2019. The northern section is due to open at the end of 2019.

NorthLink WA will provide an efficient alternative freight route, taking about 80 per cent of trucks away from the Great Northern Highway, reducing travel time and congestion for commuters and freeing local roads for local traffic.

Activity by central section contractor Great Northern Connect, a joint venture between BGC Contracting and Laing O'Rourke, has been intense throughout the year.

A major milestone was the opening of Western Australia's biggest freeway-to-freeway interchange at Tonkin and Reid Highway in March 2019.

A second interchange at Gnangara Road partially opened in May and the third interchange at The Promenade in Ellenbrook is on track for completion mid-2019.

Three new pedestrian footbridges were installed over Tonkin Highway, Hepburn Avenue and Gnangara Road; and a four-metre-wide principal shared path, connecting Morley to Ellenbrook, will also open mid-year.

On the northern section between Ellenbrook and Muchea, the highway has become clearly visible with more than six million tonnes of earth hauled to site.

This project, being constructed by CPB Contractors, features more than 150 drainage culverts, including six dual-use culverts with fauna underpasses.

In May, 24 tee-roff beams for the bridge across Muchea South Road and the railway line were installed. The beams ranged from 24 to 40 metres and weighed from 114 to 180 tonnes. The complex manoeuvre involved a 13-day road closure, as the beams could not be installed over live traffic.

At almost 70 per cent complete, work on three grade-separated interchanges with roundabouts at Neaves Road, Stock Road and Brand Highway is well underway.

Thirteen structures in this section are almost complete including 11 road bridges, a footbridge at Neaves Road and a pedestrian underpass at Stock West Road. As part of our ongoing commitment to keep the community informed we are doing regular updates on the Project website. This includes video footage of the works as they progress.