The NSW Government is taking action to deliver transport improvements for the Northern Beaches, including an integrated program of service and infrastructure improvements to deliver a new B-Line Bus service.

The B-Line service is scheduled to start operating in Late 2017. The B-Line will provide more frequent and reliable bus services for customers travelling between the Northern Beaches and the Sydney CBD.

Program update

The B-Line service will integrate with a proposed new bus service plan for the whole Northern Beaches region to meet customer demand now and into the immediate future.

The new Northern Beaches Bus Service Plan has been designed to reduce duplication of services and provide a simpler and more easily understood network for customers. Further information about upcoming consultation on the new service plan can be found on page 4 of this update.
Earlier this month, the Minister announced the purchase of a new fleet of double deck buses for the B-Line service. The first of these buses are expected to be delivered in June 2017, with the fleet in operation by late 2017.

The uniquely branded B-Line bus will have premium features, which include USB ports for customer’s electronic devices, comfortable seating with more leg room and TV screens on both levels to provide travel advice.

Field investigations along the B-Line route commenced in September and will continue into November 2016. These investigations are essential to determine the ground conditions and locating utilities before commencement of any proposed road works along the corridor.

Field investigations can be very noisy activities and all effort is being taken to minimise the impact on local communities by completing the works at night, in as shorter time as possible. We would like to thank residents and businesses for their co-operation over this period.

Planning approval for Warriewood, Narrabeen and Manly Vale B-Line commuter car parks

Planning approval for the Spit Junction Demolition to allow for improvement of transport facilities at Spit Junction, Mosman

Electronic message sign installed on Barrenjoey Road, Mona Vale to improve road safety

Field investigations to locate utilities and help develop designs for roadwork proposals along the B-Line route are nearing completion

Work on Intersection improvements on Pittwater Road at Mactier, Wetherill and Clarke street commencing in late October 2016

Additional 480 weekly bus services added to the existing Northern Beaches network

The project team will continue to distribute newsletters, advertise in local newspapers and update the project website to keep the community and other interested stakeholders informed of the program’s progress and opportunities to be involved. The program website offers opportunities to get involved in discussion forums and ask questions, visit b-line.transport.nsw.gov.au to register.

Planning approval for the program’s key infrastructure, such as commuter car parks and major road works, are required prior to any works being undertaken.

Planning approvals are obtained under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act). Planning approval has already been granted for the precincts of Warriewood, Narrabeen and Manly Vale as well as demolition of the former Greater Union Cinema at Spit Junction, Mosman, to improve transport facilities.

The environmental impacts of all proposed works are assessed and the findings documented in a report called a Review of Environmental Factors (REF). The REF also identifies a range of measures to minimise the impact of the proposed works during construction and operation.

Upcoming community information sessions have been scheduled to support the proposed works in Dee Why.

Further information about public displays for works proposed in Mona Vale, Collaroy, Brookvale, Seaforth, Spit Road and Military Road will be provided in the coming months. Please contact the B-Line Program if you have any difficulty accessing the REF documents.
Northern Beaches Bus Service Plan

The B-Line service is part of a wider Northern Beaches Bus Service Plan proposed to coincide with the start of the B-Line service late next year. The plan provides better public transport connections for customers and overall improvements to the region’s network.

Currently bus travel is the only means of public transport for the Northern Beaches, and the bus services are being reviewed to assess customer needs now and into the future.

Of the 172,000 trips to work each day on the Northern Beaches, around 23% (or 40,000) are to the Sydney CBD. Commuters travelling by bus to the CBD account for 36% of these trips.

Sydney’s Bus Future (December 2013) defines a three-tiered citywide network for bus services that incorporates Rapid, Suburban and Local routes. The Northern Beaches was nominated as one of several high growth corridors for a Rapid Route or mass transit level service, featuring ‘turn-up-and-go’ frequency.

The NSW Government is making this a reality, and will implement a reliable, high frequency service tailored for Northern Beaches’ customers in late 2017.

Key features of the B-Line service include:

• new double deck fleet for improved on-board capacity and comfort
• more reliable travel times due to road improvements
• a base frequency of 10 minutes all week and every 5 minutes during the weekday peak (in the peak direction)
• B-Line stops at key centres: Mona Vale, Warriewood, Narrabeen, Collaroy, Dee Why, Brookvale, Manly Vale, Spit Junction, Neutral Bay and Sydney CBD.

The plan also identifies changes and improvements to the regional bus network. These are designed to:

• provide ‘turn-up-and-go’ bus services from Northern Beaches to Sydney’s CBD
• support local and regional travel patterns
• improve connections to B-Line service
• provide access to the new Northern Beaches Hospital when it opens in 2018
• reduce duplication and complexity of the bus network.

We will shortly be seeking feedback from the community on the proposed Northern Beaches Service Plan.

Additional bus services introduced

In February 2016 an additional 120 weekly services were introduced to support customer demand.

On 23 October, bus services on the Northern Beaches received a boost, with the introduction of more than 360 additional weekly trips for customers.

The additional services were introduced as part of the NSW Government’s Growth Services Program, which delivers new and/or additional bus services for customers when and where they’re needed. The additional services are designed to give customers a greater choice of buses to catch, particularly in busy peak and shoulder peak periods, meaning passenger loads will be spread more evenly.

There have also been some changes to departure stands for some Northern Beaches bus routes leaving the city. Some routes will also have minor adjustments to timetables and travel times.

Customers can go online and use the trip planner at transportnsw.info. They can also plan trips by downloading real-time transport apps, and customers can receive bus service updates for their area by following the new Transport Info Twitter handle @BusesNorth. Alternatively, they can call 131 500.