

media release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hills M2 Upgrade wins major award for government partnership

The Hills M2 Upgrade project has been named the 2011 winner of the Government Partnership Excellence Award at the National Infrastructure Awards, announced last night by Infrastructure Partnerships Australia (IPA).

The upgrade – a joint project between Transurban and the RTA – was also a finalist in the Financial Excellence category at the awards.

IPA Chairman Mark Birrell said the project took top honours for government partnerships because “it was the best example of a government agency and the private sector working together to deliver the best possible infrastructure solution.”

“This \$550 million project will deliver more than \$1.7 billion in economic returns to the people of New South Wales, but the partnership between the RTA and Transurban means that it will be delivered at no cost to the taxpayer,” he added. “This project shows that private investment is available to bridge the gap in public infrastructure.”

The Hills M2 Upgrade is the most complex enhancement to an operating motorway ever undertaken in Sydney, and was negotiated during the global economic downturn, a period of reduced global activity for privately financed projects.

Construction started in early 2011 and is expected to take about two years to complete.

The upgrade will provide substantial improvements to travel times in northwest Sydney. It will also significantly increase capacity in the busiest sections of the motorway and provide new links to growth centres at Macquarie Park and Sydney’s north west.

“If we want to support continued economic and residential growth in Sydney’s northwest and southwest regions, we have to invest in integrated transport solutions,” said a Transurban spokesman. “The Hills M2 Upgrade is a great example of a sustainable private investment in major public infrastructure.”

“The agreement reached to widen the M2 motorway will deliver 18 kilometres of new traffic lanes, improving traffic flow for the 17,000 buses and 100,000 vehicles which use the motorway every weekday,” an RTA spokesman said.

Since taking ownership of the motorway in 2005, Transurban has invested in a number of improvements designed to reduce travel times and relieve congestion, including the introduction of express electronic tolling in 2006 and the interim westbound widening in 2007.

For more information on the IPA’s National Infrastructure Awards, visit www.infrastructure.org.au

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