

Station's going under

\$250m for new Roma St bus hub

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RUBBER will meet rail by 2024 under plans for a subterranean interchange unveiled by the State Government.

A \$250 million underground busway station will be constructed just above the new Cross River Rail platforms at Roma St in Brisbane's CBD. The high-capacity interchange, which will generate 480 jobs during construction, is expected to transfer 36,000 people per day between rail, bus and Brisbane City Council's new Metro lines.

The much-maligned Brisbane Transit Centre is set to be demolished in coming months to facilitate the new rail and bus platforms.

Transport Minister Mark Bailey said the upgrade was motivated by surging public transport ridership, which rose to a record 182 million trips taken across the south-



UP AND DOWN: Artist's impressions of the proposed underground busway station in the Brisbane CBD.

east in the last financial year. "Having the Roma St section of the Northern Busway underground will mean better integration of bus services with the new underground train station, which will make it more convenient for commuters," Mr Bailey said.

Under the Cross River

Rail project, a 10.2km stretch of track will be tunnelled under the Brisbane River, with new stations at Woolloongabba and Albert St.

Rail Back on Track spokesman Robert Dow said the underground bus station was a good announcement. "It will certainly improve the connections there," he said.

