



CityLink Tulla Widening

Project Overview

Upgrading CityLink and the Tullamarine Freeway between Melbourne Airport and the CityLink Tunnels will relieve congestion and improve safety on this vital route for Victorians and interstate and overseas visitors.

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The 24 kilometre long project will add extra lanes in each direction between the Bolte Bridge and Melbourne Airport, as well as extra lanes on the Bolte Bridge and a section of the West Gate Freeway (eastbound) between Bolte Bridge and Power Street.

By separating traffic at key locations and upgrading interchanges, it will also relieve much of the weaving and merging on the freeway that contributes to congestion and crashes.

A Freeway Management System will also be introduced including:

- Overhead signs to control lanes and traffic speeds.
- 'stop and go' signals at all ramps to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion as traffic enters the freeway. These signals will also be installed on all city-bound ramps on the Calder Freeway between Kings Road in Taylors Lakes and the Tulla Calder interchange.
- CCTV cameras to monitor incidents, improve response times and minimise disruptions.
- Variable message signs to notify road users of planned changes or disruptions.
- Automatic incident detection system that sends immediate alerts to the control room.

All these improvements will work together to provide a freeway for the city's modern transport needs and support the growth of Melbourne's population for years to come.

Transurban and its contractor, CPB Contractors, is managing the section of the project from Bulla Road to Power Street. VicRoads and its contractor, Lend Lease, is managing the upgrade from Bulla Road to the Airport.

Project benefits

- Up to 30 per cent increase in capacity – easing congestion now and providing for future growth.
- Travel time savings per trip between Melbourne Airport and the West Gate Freeway, on average commuters, families and businesses will save 16 minutes in the morning peak and 17 minutes in the afternoon peak.
- A more reliable freeway with fewer unplanned incidents and more consistent travel times.
- A reduction in commercial vehicles using local roads, as 3,000 more commercial vehicles will be able to access the freeway (2,300 of which will be heavy vehicles).
- A reduction in casualty crashes of up to 20 per cent.
- Creation of around 1,400 direct and indirect construction jobs.

Why is the upgrade needed?

The CityLink Tullamarine corridor is one of the most heavily trafficked roads in Melbourne, carrying 210,000 vehicles per day in its busiest section. As a comparison, 200,000 vehicles travel on the West Gate Bridge each day.

With population growth, traffic on this section of the freeway is expected to increase to 235,000 vehicles per day by 2031.

The freeway and connecting roads do not have the capacity to meet this increasing demand. Already, the freeway is heavily congested in peak periods causing excessive delays and risk of traffic incidents, especially near the Bolte Bridge.

Delays are also spreading to major connecting roads including the M80 Ring Road, the Calder and West Gate freeways and arterial and local roads.

There is also heavy congestion in the morning and afternoon peak periods on Footscray Road, Bell Street and Mickleham Road.

The project is vital to keep Melbourne's motorists and freight moving into the future and to maintain Melbourne's world famous liveability.

Key works

- Extra lanes on the Bolte Bridge and an additional lane on the ramp connecting the Bolte Bridge to the West Gate Freeway (eastbound).
- A new lane on the West Gate Freeway (eastbound) between Bolte Bridge and Power Street.
- Construction of a new Bell Street to Pascoe Vale Road connection, including a new bridge over CityLink and the Craigieburn train line.
- Two new dedicated lanes to Bell Street, from the Tullamarine Freeway and Calder Freeway.
- New dedicated lanes from the Tullamarine Freeway and Mickleham Road to the Western Ring Road.
- An extra lane in each direction from the Airport to Bulla Road.
- Extra lane on a reconstructed English Street Bridge

Timing and construction

Works have commenced and the project is scheduled to be complete in 2018.

Sections of the project will be opened progressively when it is safe to do so ensuring motorists get the benefits as soon as possible.

During construction, disruptions to traffic will be minimised with the same number of existing lanes open during peak hours.

To keep workers and drivers safe, concrete barriers will be installed, speed limits reduced and lane widths reduced slightly. This can alter sight distances for drivers and means less time to react so it's important that drivers adhere to the reduced speed limits.

Motorists will be kept informed of changing traffic conditions. Motorists should plan their journey and allow a little more travelling time.

How will the project be funded?

The total project cost is \$1.28 billion and is being financed by the Victorian and Federal Governments and Transurban the operator of CityLink.

How can I find out more?

For more information and to sign up to project and traffic updates, visit www.citytullawidening.vic.gov.au and check out the VicTraffic app for real-time travel time updates. You can also call **1300 783 947** or email: citylinktullawidening@roads.vic.gov.au.



Please call **131 450** if you require information in another language

