



# Bell Street interchange safety and traffic improvements

The CityLink Tulla Widening project will increase capacity, ease congestion and provide a smoother and more reliable journey for people travelling between Melbourne Airport and the CBD by adding an extra lane in each direction, a state-of-the-art freeway management system and upgrading key interchanges.

## About the improvements

Upgrades will be made around the Bell Street interchange to improve safety and reduce delays, including:

- widening and lengthening the freeway entry ramp and adding traffic signals
- building a new bridge for cars, pedestrians and cyclists that connects Bell Street and Pascoe Vale Road.

## Why are improvements needed?

Improvements are needed to address traffic and safety concerns and to make this busy interchange work better for the thousands of people who use it.

## A safer connection from Bell Street to Pascoe Vale Road

Drivers travelling on Bell Street toward Pascoe Vale Road currently need to merge left – over the driver’s blind side and at an angle that makes it difficult to see oncoming traffic. This has resulted in over 30 crashes since 2000.



This difficult merge is a safety concern, with over 30 crashes reported here since 2000.

We know that there are currently 4000 vehicles a day travelling from Bell Street to Pascoe Vale Road and this is expected to increase to 6000 in 2031. We also know that up to 90 percent of these drivers are turning left onto Pascoe Vale Road – meaning that most drivers need to merge twice within a short distance and in unusual driving conditions to reach their destination.

The new bridge will provide a safer connection by removing this dangerous merge. It will also give pedestrians and cyclists an improved and safer shared path and access to the Moonee Ponds Creek trail.

## Reducing delays and weaving traffic on Bell Street

Anyone who drives this route knows that traffic waiting to enter the freeway from Bell Street can queue back as far as Cumberland Road and beyond. This delays drivers heading to the freeway, accessing local roads and travelling across to Pascoe Vale Road.

Weaving and merging is also common on Bell Street as drivers move into the correct lane or try to get ahead. This is a safety concern and adds to congestion.

The new bridge connecting Bell Street to Pascoe Vale Road will free up the existing bridge for freeway-bound traffic, reducing queuing and weaving traffic. Ramp signalling on the entry ramp will also allow four vehicles to enter the freeway at a time, keeping traffic moving.

View from above Pascoe Vale Road (looking east towards Bell Street)



## What's involved in the upgrade?

Key improvements being made to the Bell Street bridge and freeway entry ramp as part of the CityLink Tulla Widening project include:

- 1 The existing connection to Pascoe Vale Road will be closed.
- 2 A new bridge that connects Bell Street and Pascoe Vale Road will be built for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists, to provide a safer connection and free up space on the existing bridge for freeway traffic.
- 3 The existing bridge will be dedicated to freeway-bound traffic, providing extra space to reduce queuing on Bell Street.
- 4 Ramp widening and lengthening, along with ramp signals on the entry ramp, will improve traffic flow onto the freeway and reduce queuing on Bell Street.

## Landscaping

Some vegetation will need to be removed for construction. A landscaping plan will be implemented which will add new plants to areas surrounding the Bell Street bridge, freeway and ramps.

## Project status and timing

Leighton Contractors is designing and constructing the CityLink Tulla Widening project from Bulla Road to Power Street. Works began in October 2015 and will be completed in 2018.

In the Bell Street area, most major construction activity will be undertaken during 2016, including construction of the new Bell Street bridge, which will take around 18 months.

## Construction

We acknowledge that works over an extended period of time can be disruptive to residents. We're doing everything we can to minimise that disruption.

We will keep residents informed of major works ahead of time, particularly when working outside normal construction hours of 7am to 6pm Monday to Saturday. Night and weekend works are sometimes necessary to keep workers and drivers safe and minimise traffic disruption.

All freeway lanes will remain open during peak travel times to keep traffic moving. Drivers can expect to see reduced speed limits and there will be overnight lane closures, ramp closures and occasional half or full freeway closures.

We will provide advance notice of any major disruption and clearly sign and communicate detours.

Cyclists and pedestrians may also notice changed conditions or detours of cycling and walking paths, including along the Moonee Ponds Creek trail. We will always provide a safe and clearly signed detour.

## Contact Details

For further information  
Call **1300 783 947**  
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