



CityLink Tulla Widening

West Gate Freeway Upgrade - Bolte Bridge to Power Street

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 upgrade

The CityLink Tulla Widening will improve traffic conditions and safety on the Bolte Bridge by adding capacity where it is most needed and introducing a Freeway Management System to carefully manage traffic flow.

An additional lane will be added in each direction across the Bolte Bridge and an additional lane on the ramp that takes traffic to the West Gate Freeway and toward the south eastern suburbs (Burnley Tunnel).

Why is this upgrade needed?

Currently, the number of vehicles wishing to use the ramp from the Bolte Bridge towards the Burnley Tunnel is higher than its capacity, resulting in long queues in the centre lane on the Bridge that can stretch back to Footscray Road. Traffic in this lane is much slower than those in neighbouring lanes, posing a safety risk that has contributed to some 400 crashes on the Bolte Bridge between 2008 and 2013.

This project will cut crashes by adding an extra lane from the Bolte Bridge to the Burnley Tunnel to reduce queue lengths on the Bridge and the weaving and merging that happens when people try to 'queue jump' to access the centre lane.

The upgrade will also extend the physical separation of vehicles entering the West Gate Freeway from the Bolte Bridge and those already travelling on the West Gate Bridge towards the Tunnel to reduce merging and weaving and keep traffic in dedicated lanes.

These changes will see more consistent and reliable travel times - reducing frustration for drivers currently experiencing vastly different travel times on the Bolte Bridge from one day to the next.

Will ramp signals be installed?

Permanent ramp signals will be installed as part of the upgraded Freeway Management System to regulate traffic flow from the Bolte Bridge to the West Gate Freeway. It will work by releasing a set amount of vehicles onto the freeway at regular intervals, allowing us to control the flow of traffic onto the West Gate Freeway.

This will balance the traffic demand across both the West Gate Freeway and the Bolte Bridge and result in a smoother flow of traffic onto the freeway, helping to prevent congestion caused when a large number of vehicles attempt to enter the West Gate Freeway at once.

To complete the upgrade there will be changes to traffic lane arrangements from the Bolte Bridge to Power Street. These changes will result in major delays for traffic heading towards the city from the West Gate Bridge and the Bolte Bridge.

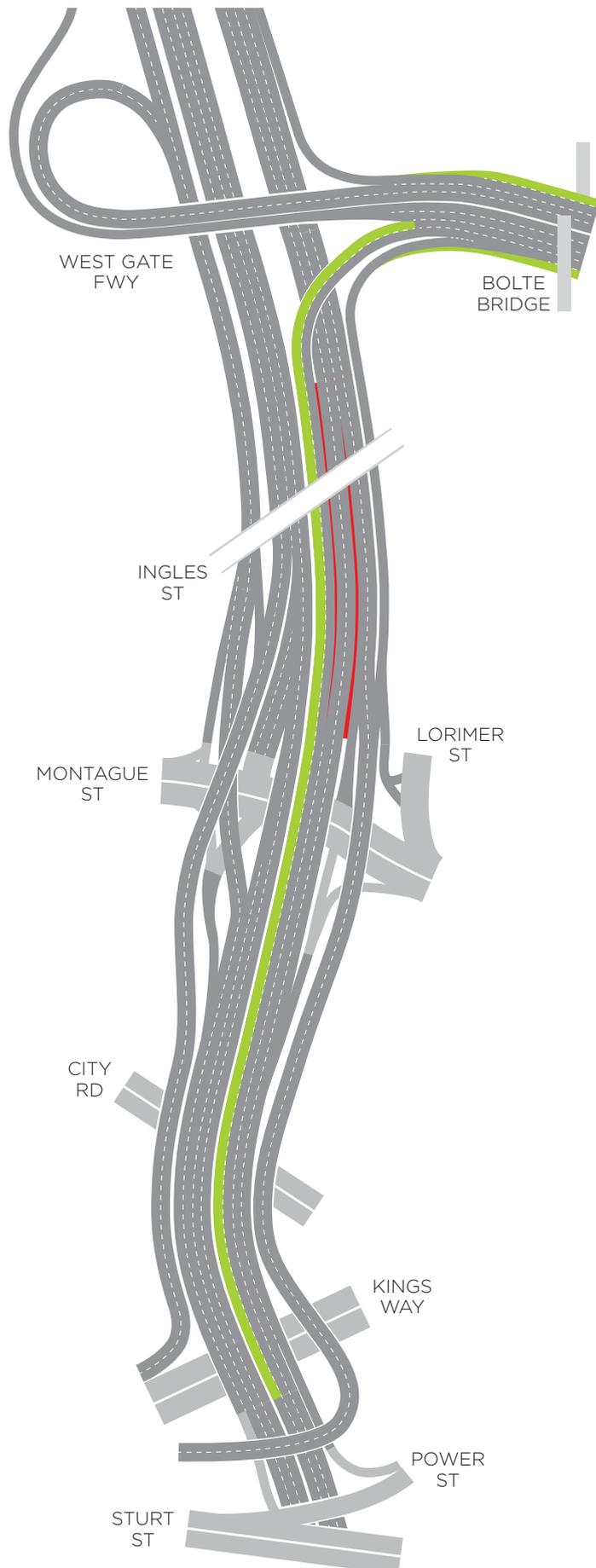
West Gate Freeway

As design is still ongoing, this information is subject to change

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- 1 new lane
- New barriers to separate traffic

When complete, the CityLink Tulla Widening will improve traffic conditions and safety on the Bolte Bridge by adding capacity where it is most needed and introducing a Freeway Management System to carefully manage traffic flow.



Traffic impact during construction

Stage 1 works - information is subject to change

What to expect during construction?

To create the additional lanes on the West Gate Freeway, major construction is taking place on the West Gate Freeway from the Bolte Bridge exit ramps through to Power Street.

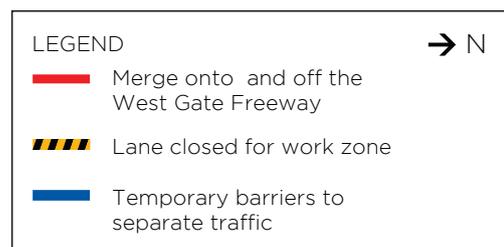
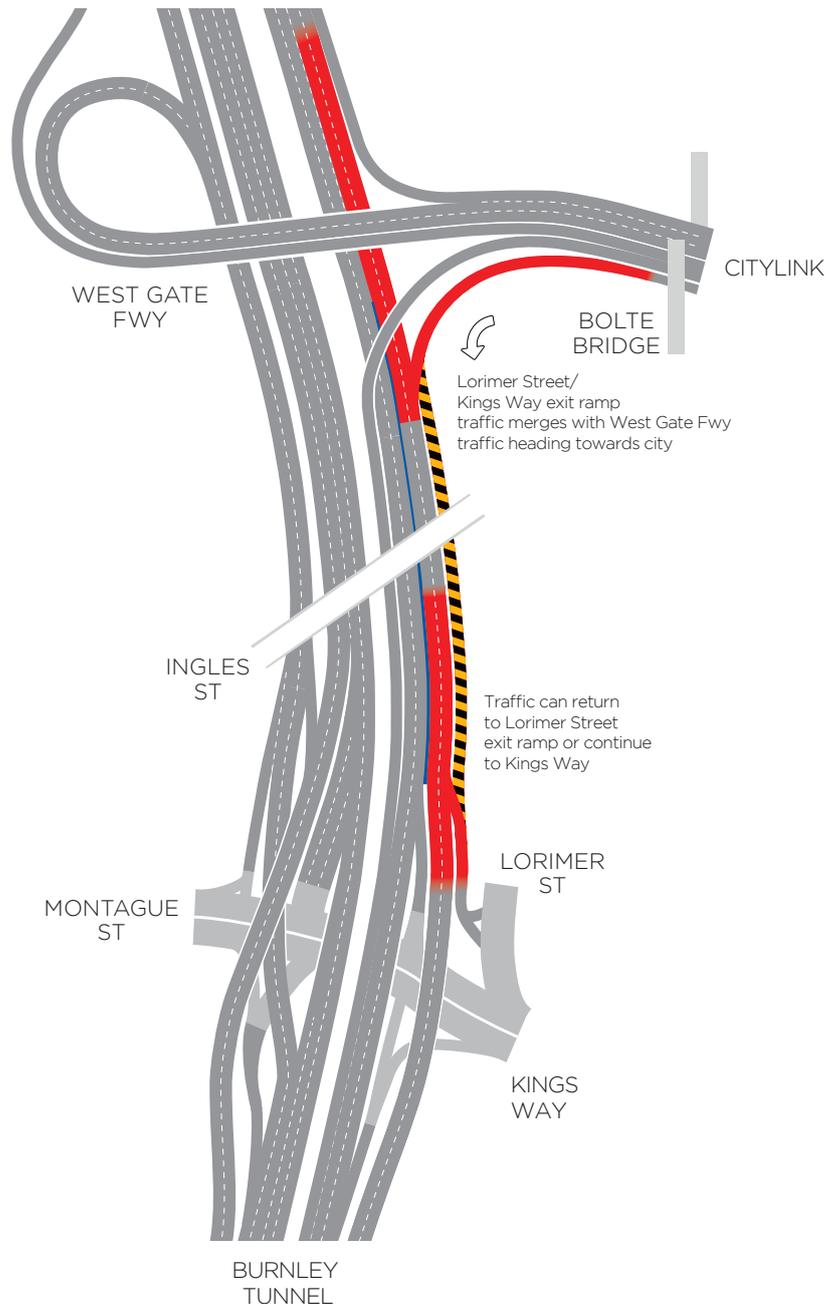
From March 2016, a construction zone will be created along the Lorimer Street/Kings Way exit ramp from the Bolte Bridge, on the north side of the West Gate Freeway. This will mean traffic using this exit ramp will need to merge with traffic heading east on the West Gate Freeway.

A temporary ramp signal system will be used to regulate the volume of traffic that will need to merge from the Lorimer Street/Kingsway exit to the West Gate Freeway. This will assist in controlling the flow of traffic onto the West Gate Freeway and assist drivers to merge easily.

New line marking on the freeway, concrete barriers and reduced speed limits will be in place to keep drivers and work crews safe during construction.

This new merge from the Lorimer Street/Kings Way exit ramp to the West Gate Freeway will remain in place for around 18 months when construction is expected to be completed at this location.

Motorists travelling east on the West Gate Freeway will be required to choose which lane to travel on before passing through the construction zone due to temporary barriers separating traffic for safety purposes.





During the road works:

- Plan your journey
- Consider alternative routes
- Watch out for on-road signage advice

Impact on your travel times

While every effort is being made to minimise traffic impacts during construction, the new merge is expected to cause major traffic disruption for around 18 months. Drivers can expect to see reduced speed limits and there will be overnight lane closures on the freeway and connecting roads, as well as the occasional closure of the freeway and exit ramps for major works.

If you use the Bolte Bridge or West Gate Freeway inbound to travel to work it's important for drivers to:

- Plan your journey before you leave home by checking real-time traffic information via the *VicTraffic* app or search #CTWidening on Twitter
- Allow extra travel time and consider taking an alternative route
- Keep an eye out for the on-road signage for advice on alternative routes and delays

What are the alternative routes?

Several alternative routes are available to drivers heading inbound on the West Gate Bridge or the CityLink Tullamarine Freeway.

From the West Gate Bridge:

- Geelong Road to Footscray Road
- Williamstown Road to Footscray Road
- Todd Road to Lorimer Street

From CityLink Tullamarine Freeway:

- Footscray Road exit to Wurundjeri Way
- Dynon Road exit to Kings Street

Keeping informed about these works and travel impacts

All major works will be advertised in advance and details of all traffic impacts will be posted on the project website and Twitter by searching #CTWidening.

On-road signage will advise motorists of recommended alternative routes and real-time traffic information where available.



Contact Details

For further information
Call **1300 783 947**
Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Email citylinktullawidening@roads.vic.gov.au
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