



CityLink Tulla Widening

Bulla Road to Power Street Construction Update



The upcoming summer break will be a very busy time for CityLink Tulla Widening and a number of other projects, as we make use of Melbourne's quieter roads to get a lot of high impacts works done.

If you're out and about on the road over the holiday break, we strongly recommend you check out traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au or download the [VicTraffic app](#) to plan your trip before switching on the engine.

We recognise that our works are impacting drivers and the broader community and we thank you for your continued patience with the frequent freeway, ramp and lane closures needed to help complete the works.

We're working as quickly and safely as possible to finish the job on time in 2018.

West Gate Freeway summer works

From Monday 26 December 2016 to Friday 13 January 2017, crews will work day and night to widen and make space for a new lane on the West Gate Freeway between the Bolte Bridge and Burnley Tunnel.

Below, we've summarised the road conditions drivers can expect during these works:

Heading into the city

Travelling towards the city from the Bolte Bridge or West Gate Bridge, drivers will notice that the Montague Street exit ramp has been temporarily closed.

Drivers on the West Gate Freeway wishing to access Montague Street will be detoured via Lorimer Street. Drivers will need to stick to the left hand lanes to access the detour when travelling over the West Gate Bridge into the city.

After exiting at Lorimer Street, drivers will be able to either turn left onto Montague Street towards Wurundjeri Way or turn right onto Montague Street towards Normanby Road.

Drivers on the Bolte Bridge wishing to access Montague Street will not be impacted and will continue to use the Lorimer Street exit ramp.

All four traffic lanes on the West Gate Freeway will remain open throughout these works.

Heading out of the city

Travelling away from the city towards the Bolte Bridge or West Gate Bridge, drivers will notice a section of the right

traffic lane on the freeway - between Montague Street and the Kings Way outbound entry ramp - has been reduced by one lane.

Drivers entering the freeway at the Montague Street entry ramp will have a single lane to merge with outbound West Gate Freeway traffic.

West Gate Bridge works

From 7pm on Monday 26 December to 12pm on Wednesday 28 December, VicRoads will undertake annual routine maintenance works on the West Gate Bridge. During this time, the Montague Street outbound entry ramp will be temporarily closed to traffic and three outbound lanes on the West Gate Bridge will be closed.

These works will significantly affect travel times for drivers using the West Gate Freeway and Bridge, heading west towards Geelong. They will also impact drivers looking to access the entry onto the Bolte Bridge to head towards the airport on CityLink.

Delays of up to one hour are expected for drivers during this time. Remember to keep up to date with the VicTraffic website and app for the latest traffic information and plan ahead.

New lanes for the Bolte Bridge

If you're a CityLink regular, you've probably noticed plenty of activity between the West Gate Freeway and Flemington Road over the past couple of weeks.

Our crews are hard at work adding an extra lane in each direction and installing new technology in this section of road.

The first stage of works involves crews installing the new four lane arrangement on both sides of the freeway. During these works, crews will shift the existing emergency lane from the left to the right of the traffic lanes.

Until the freeway management system is in place in mid-2017, which will allow us to remotely turn any lane into an emergency lane, the fourth lane (right lane) will be used as an emergency lane only.

Drivers also need to be aware of the following conditions that will be in place to facilitate the works:

- Speed limit reduced to 80 km/h at all times
- Speed limit further reduced to either 60 km/h or 40 km/h during night time road works

When opened in mid-2017, the new lanes and on-road technology will improve safety and traffic flow, and ease congestion for drivers through one of Melbourne's busiest sections of road - the Bolte Bridge.

There is still plenty of work to be done before we wrap up works between Bulla Road and Power Street in early-2018. Check out some of the milestones we've reached, as well as a few of the big ones we're working towards:

2016

Late 2016

- New inbound Bulla Road entry ramp completed
- Work on the new Cook Street to Bolte Bridge entry ramp commenced
- First stage of West Gate Freeway upgrades completed

Early 2017

- New two-lane bridge on Mount Alexander Road completed
- Two new lanes on the Flemington Road exit ramp opened
- Permanent changes to access from Lennon Street to Boundary Road completed

Mid 2017

- Two-lane separated road from Bulla Road to Bell Street completed
- New fourth lanes - in both directions - opened on the Bolte Bridge
- New Bell Street to Pascoe Vale Road bridge completed
- Flemington Road interchange upgrade completed

Mid to late 2017

- New Cook Street to Bolte Bridge entry ramp completed
- West Gate Freeway upgrades completed
- New Freeway Management System commissioned

2017

Did you know the West Gate Freeway upgrades are being built in five stages to minimise traffic disruptions for drivers as much as possible? Check out the project website to learn more about how we're delivering these works.

The new bridge connecting Bell Street to Pascoe Vale Road is taking shape

On the night of Thursday 10 November, the second bridge beam to 'hang' over the CityLink Tulla Freeway was installed.



The three bridge beams installed across the freeway between 11 and 15 November are each two standard beams, joined on the ground to make a 'super beam', and lifted together using a 600 tonne, a 350 tonne and a 90 tonne cranes.





Under each of the bridge piers you can see in the above picture, an average of 10 piles were drilled in place to build the foundations for bridge.



Later this month, the bridge deck will be complete when concrete is poured on top of the steel beams and panels crews installed throughout November and December.



The work at Bell Street has the added complexity of spanning above the Craigieburn Metro service and the Seymour, Aubury and Shepparton VLine services.

Bulla Road has a new entry ramp



The local Member of Parliament for Nidrie, Ben Carroll, came out when the new entry ramp opened on Tuesday 29 November 2016.



The entry ramp to the freeway from Bulla Road will soon be above the new, dedicated lanes for traffic travelling from the Tullamarine Freeway to Bell Street.



Surfacing work on the Bulla Road entry ramp, and work on the new, dedicated lanes to Bell Street from the Calder and Tullamarine Freeways in full swing.

Progress for Mount Alexander Road/Flemington Road area

Plenty of progress has been made on the new two-lane bridge connecting Mount Alexander Road to the Flemington Road interchange. With all bridge beams now installed, crews are working towards finishing the bridge deck, surfacing, and installing concrete barriers for the new bridge by the end of December.

In the New Year, traffic will be switched onto the new two-lane bridge when crews shift the work zone onto the two existing traffic lanes.

The new four lane arrangement on Mount Alexander Road - made up of the two existing lanes and new two-lane bridge - will be open by April 2017.

Nearby on the Flemington Road freeway exit ramp, crews have completed drainage activities. Pavement works for two new ramp lanes will be completed by December 2016. Crews are also busy installing new lighting along the upgraded ramp which is expected to be open around early 2017.

As the upgraded Flemington Road exit ramp nears completion, changes to access to from Lennon Street will come into effect. From early-2017, drivers will no longer be able to access Boundary Road from Lennon Street via the freeway exit ramp.

When completed, upgrades to the Flemington Road/Mount Alexander Road interchange area will improve safety and traffic flow in this busy and complex interchange for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

There's still a lot of work to be done before we wrap up Flemington Road interchange works next year. In the meantime, we'll continue to provide local residents and drivers advanced notice of upcoming construction activities planned in the area.



Revegetation activities begin

The CityLink Tulla Widening project recently started revegetation activities between Flemington Road and Bulla Road.

Crews are busy with preparation activities including topsoiling, mulching and, starting in December, the first lot of tube stock plantings will be planted to the north of Flemington Road along the Moonee Ponds Creek.

A wide variety of plant stock will be planted during revegetation works including Red River Gums, Sweet Bursia and Gold Dust Wattle.

We're also on track to start planting activities at the Ornamental Pond, Flemington, in April 2017 - a little earlier than expected.

Safe driving during the holiday break

The CityLink Tulla Widening team would like to thank drivers for their patience and safe, careful driving through our work zones in 2016.

Over the next couple of months, a number of traffic switches will be taking place in our section of the project as we begin opening new sections of road and shifting work sites around.

It's really important to us that anyone who passes through - or works in - our work zone makes it home safely.

We'll do our best to keep drivers moving as safely and quickly as possible. We ask for your help to keep our workers safe by obeying reduced speed limits and being aware of changed traffic conditions.

Contact details

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Visit citylinktullawidening.vic.gov.au

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