

# Monash Freeway UPGRADE

**COMMUNITY UPDATE** > May/June 2016

The Victorian Government is widening and upgrading the Monash Freeway to help cut traffic congestion and get you home sooner and safer.

The Monash Freeway Upgrade forms an important part of the Western Distributor Project, a partnership between the Victorian Government and Transurban to provide a network-wide solution to reduce congestion, improve safety and reliability and streamline the M1 from Geelong to Pakenham.

Two of the most congested parts of the Monash are the Hallam Bypass and the EastLink interchange. The Monash Freeway Upgrade will relieve both these chokepoints.

The Monash Freeway is critical to supporting Victoria's growth. The corridor is home to a booming population and half of Melbourne's workforce.

## What's involved?

The Monash Freeway Upgrade includes:

- Around 30 kilometres of additional traffic lanes
  - Widening from four to five lanes in each direction between EastLink and South Gippsland Freeway
  - Widening from two to three lanes in each direction from South Gippsland Freeway to Clyde Road in Berwick.
- New and upgraded ramp signals and extra space for more cars on ramps from Chadstone to Pakenham

- Widening and strengthening of bridges
- A new concrete median barrier between EastLink and the Princes Highway
- Improved lighting at various interchanges

The upgrade works will all occur within the existing road reserve, which means no homes will be impacted. There will be no new tolls introduced on the Monash Freeway.

## Key benefits

The project's benefits include:

- Reduced travel times by 10 minutes a day and room for an extra 2,000 vehicles during peak
- Smoother travel and better reliability for over 200,000 motorists a day on the busiest sections
- A 20 per cent reduction in crashes that cause serious injury
- Up to 400 jobs at the peak of construction
- Capacity for 50 percent more vehicles in the peak hour on the Hallam Bypass
- Capacity for 20 percent more vehicles on the busiest section of the freeway, from EastLink to the South Gippsland Freeway

## Monash Freeway Upgrade



### Status and next steps

- A range of early works have been completed including concept design, surveys, drainage investigations, environmental studies and soil and pavement testing.
- Planning is underway and will continue throughout 2016.
- Three construction firms have been invited to tender for designing and building the upgrade, with an experienced contractor to be appointed in mid-2016.

- Plans for the widening works will be on display in coming months and we will let you know.
- Construction will commence in late 2016 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

### Keeping the Monash moving during construction

Keeping existing traffic flowing on the Monash is a priority when construction commences in late 2016. To achieve this, the current number of lanes will remain open during peak times and construction will be staged to avoid major disruption to road users.

Notifications and traffic information will be provided closer to the works, via VicRoads' VicTraffic mobile app, road signage, print and online. Motorists will be reminded to be alert to changes in traffic conditions and obey road work speed limits.

### Managing construction impacts

During construction, strict environmental management measures will be in place to ensure that construction noise, dust, drainage and other community impacts are minimised as much as possible.

### More information

If you would like to know more about the Monash Freeway Upgrade or get in touch with the project team:

#### please visit

[westernndistributorproject.vic.gov.au](http://westernndistributorproject.vic.gov.au)

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