

Friday, 27 November, 2008

## **MAJOR ROADWORKS AND FREEWAY CLOSURE ON M1**

Motorists planning to use the M1 corridor over the next two weekends are being warned to expect significant delays as major works continue on the state's largest road project.

Roads and Ports Minister Tim Pallas said the major works are part of the \$1.39 billion M1 upgrade that will transform traffic flow on Victoria's busiest corridor.

"Motorists using Montague Street will face traffic changes this weekend as major works continue on the upgrade to the West Gate Freeway," Mr Pallas said.

Part of Montague Street heading northbound to the city will be temporarily closed overnight from 8pm to 5am on Friday and Saturday nights to allow for major construction works and beam delivery.

Mr Pallas said that motorists travelling around Montague Street would already be able to see the significant progress on the project as the massive structures are being put into place to create what will be the focal point of the West Gate Freeway upgrade – a triple-deck interchange.

"The triple-deck interchange will alleviate dangerous merging and weaving that currently takes place and will provide safer and easier access for motorists travelling between Kings Way and the tunnels and the Bolte and West Gate Bridges," Mr Pallas said.

"Further to the east on the M1 on Saturday 29 November, a large concrete pour will take place overnight on the outbound section of CityLink between Yarra Boulevard to Glenferrie Road.

"As part of this section upgrade, we are joining part of the existing roadway to the newly created lanes on CityLink between Yarra Boulevard to Glenferrie Road.

"There will be lane closures throughout the night on Saturday until lunchtime on Sunday. These traffic changes are required to ensure works are carried out safely with minimal impact on traffic during the day and peak times.

"Motorists using the freeway during these times need to allow for extra travel time or take an alternative route."

Motorists using the freeway on the following weekend will face even greater disruption with plans to close CityLink and part of the Monash Freeway overnight on Saturday 6 December until Sunday morning.

Mr Pallas said the tunnels and freeway are being closed on the evening of Saturday 6 December for another stitch pour, the installation of gantries and regular maintenance works.

"The Freeway is being closed to maximise the works that can be done overnight and to reduce inconvenience to motorists at other busy times in the lead up to the Christmas period," he said.

"During the next two weekends there will be major construction activity and we want to give motorists an early heads up that there will be quite significant disruption.

“We apologise for the inconvenience to motorists and we’re doing all we can to keep disruption to a minimum but with a job this size, every now and again we need to close the road so we can get on with the job of improving it.

“Once complete, the M1 upgrade will reduce congestion, improve reliability along the freeway, increase traffic throughput by 50 per cent and reduce the incidence of casualty crashes by up to 20 per cent.

“Works on the M1 upgrade over the next eight months include the delivery and installation of bridge columns and beams, bridge deck panels, more concrete deck pours, permanent concrete barriers and associated works.”

Details of closures and detours for these major works are below:

### **Montague Street triple-deck interchange works November 28 and 29**

Part of Montague Street heading northbound to the city will be temporarily closed overnight from 8pm to 5am periodically over the next eight months on approximately 30 occasions. The first closures are scheduled for this Friday and Saturday nights. Traffic heading northbound along Montague Street will be detoured, with clearly signed detour routes. Southbound traffic will remain as normal.

Proposed detour routes are:

- Northbound traffic and westbound freeway traffic exiting the freeway at Montague Street travelling north - Normanby Road, Ingles Street and Lorimer Street;
- West Gate Bridge bound traffic – Normanby Road, Williamstown Road and then Todd Road;
- CityLink Bolte Bridge bound traffic – Normanby Road, Williamstown Road, Todd Road and then Cook Street.

### **Full Freeway closure Southern Link and Monash Freeway 6 December**

Progressive lane closures will commence in both the inbound and outbound directions from 8.30pm on the evening of Saturday 6 December.

Between 10pm on Saturday and 9am on Sunday, the freeway and the CityLink tunnels will be fully closed to all traffic between Kings Way and Toorak Road in the outbound direction and between Burke Road and Kings Way in the inbound direction.

A fully signed detour route will be in place for motorists via Kings Way, Queens Road, Princes Highway and Burke Road.

A map of the detour routes for both weekends and further information is available on project website at [www.mcwupgrade.com.au](http://www.mcwupgrade.com.au) or by phoning the project hotline on 1300 881 137.