

M80 Ring Road upgrade

Project update

MP briefing: April 2017

Project overview

The M80 Ring Road upgrade is a \$2.25 billion project that when finished will deliver widening and improvements along 38 kilometres of freeway from the Princes Freeway, Laverton North to the Greensborough Highway, Greensborough.

The Victorian Government has committed \$350 million to complete the remaining three sections of the M80 Ring Road.

Half of the upgrade has been completed, with work on the Sunshine Avenue to Calder Freeway section underway.

Construction is expected to begin between Princes Freeway and the Western Highway, the first of three remaining sections, in early 2018.

All sections of the freeway are expected to be complete by the end of 2021.

Benefits

As one of Melbourne's busiest freeways, the M80 Ring Road is used by more than 165,000 vehicles, including 22,000 trucks, each day.

Completing the upgrade will link the already improved sections so drivers, particularly from growth areas such as Wyndham, Melton, Whittlesea and Hume, can access other freeways, including the West Gate Freeway, the Tullamarine Freeway and the new West Gate Tunnel (formerly Western Distributor), quickly and easily.

It will also:

- Ease congestion by providing more lanes in each direction
- Improve safety with better road layout and upgrades to key interchanges to reduce weaving and merging
- Reduce travel times for drivers, including greater efficiency for freight. On average, Altona-bound drivers will save 10 minutes and Greensborough-bound drivers will save 15 minutes
- Improve traffic flow with the installation of a new freeway management system, including overhead speed limit and lane use signs, ramp signals, CCTV cameras and variable message signs.

Economic benefits

The M80 Ring Road upgrade provides current and future job opportunities, particularly for people in growth areas.

Victorian construction and engineering companies will also benefit from a local content requirement set by the Victorian Government. Under the Government's Victorian Industry

Participation Policy (VIPPP), a minimum of 95 per cent of the project will need to be from services and materials provided locally.

Sunshine Avenue to Calder Freeway (currently under construction)

- This section of the project will create more than 1350 jobs (850 direct and 500 indirect).

Princes Freeway to the Western Highway (expressions of interest open)

- This section will create more than 3000 jobs (1915 direct jobs and 1095 indirect jobs).

Plenty Road to Greensborough Highway

- This section will create 820 jobs (522 direct jobs and 298 indirect jobs).

Sydney Road to Edgars Road

- This section will create 1115 jobs (710 direct jobs and 405 indirect jobs).

Sections under construction

Sunshine Avenue to Calder Freeway

Funding: \$300 million (\$150 million Victorian Government, \$150 million Commonwealth Government)

Timings:

- Construction started in October 2016
- Works are expected to be complete by late 2018.

About the project:

Once completed, this 3.2 kilometre upgrade will deliver:

- Widening from two lanes to four lanes under Sunshine Avenue
- Widening EJ Whitten Bridge from three lanes to five lanes in each direction
- The removal of bottle necks at Sunshine Avenue and Keilor Park Drive
- An upgraded shared use path and public safety barriers on the EJ Whitten Bridge
- A new freeway management system.

Key interfaces:

- CityLink Tulla Widening project, which includes the installation of ramp signals.

Funded remaining sections

Funding: \$700 million (\$350 million Victorian Government, \$350 million Commonwealth Government)

Princes Freeway to the Western Highway

Timings:

- Expressions of interest were requested on 29 March 2017
- Tender period to begin in mid 2017
- Contract award late 2017
- Early works are expected to begin in late 2017 and construction in early 2018
- Construction is expected to be complete by late 2020.

About the project:

The upgrade in this 7.9 kilometre section includes:

- Widening from three lanes to four lanes in each direction, including widening and lengthening of entry and exit ramps to reduce merging
- Upgrade to the interchange at Boundary Road and Fitzgerald Road to improve access to the M80 Ring Road for freight from Laverton
- Upgrading the Princes Freeway and M80 Ring Road interchange to provide new ramps which will reduce weaving and create better connections
- A new collector distributor in both inbound and outbound directions
- Widening the bridges over Pipe Road, Boundary Road and Fitzgerald Road
- A new freeway management system.

Key interfaces:

- West Gate Tunnel
- Outer Suburban Arterial Roads (OSARs), Dohertys Road.

Plenty Road to the Greensborough Highway

Timings:

- Expressions of interest and tender period from October 2018
- Construction expected to start by early 2019
- Works expected to be complete by early 2021.

About the project:

This 2.4 kilometre upgrade includes:

- Widening from two lanes to three lanes in each direction, including building a new overpass for drivers travelling southbound onto the M80 Ring Road from the Greensborough Highway
- Other improvements to the interchange at Greensborough Highway to provide better connections
- A new freeway management system.

Key interfaces:

- North East Link.

Sydney Road to Edgars Road

Timings:

- Expression of interest and tender period from April 2018
- Construction is scheduled to begin by early 2019
- Construction expected to be complete at end of 2021.

About the project:

This 4 kilometre upgrade includes:

- Adding a new lane in each direction
- Widening and lengthening entry and exit ramps to reduce merging
- New separate carriageways between Sydney Road and Edgars Road to remove the dangerous weaving that currently exists
- A new freeway management system.

Completed sections

Western Highway to Sunshine Avenue (Opened: August 2013)

Calder Freeway to Sydney Road (Opened: May 2013)

Edgars Road to Plenty Road (Opened: April 2014)

Risks/issues

- Interface with other projects delivered simultaneously, such as West Gate Tunnel, CityLink Tulla Widening, North East Link, to ensure coordination and collaboration
- Early and proactive community and stakeholder engagement to ensure support and understanding of project scope and impacts
- Traffic disruption during extensive construction, particularly to freight
- Construction and industry impacts such as resourcing and supplying issues due to the number of infrastructure projects currently underway, including Melbourne Metro Rail Authority, Level Crossing Removal Authority.