



Building Victoria's future: The need for an East West Link

Efficient, high quality transport connections are vital to enhancing Victoria's liveability, strengthening our economy and meeting the needs of a growing population. The accessibility and efficiency of our transport network impacts all Victorians – motorists, commuters, exporters, importers, consumers, businesses and transporters.

Together, our organisations represent over 2 million members and businesses. It is our view that the East West Link will boost this state's interstate and international competitiveness, reduce congestion, improve living standards and amenity, drive productivity, generate jobs and stimulate economic activity.

Melbourne has developed an over-reliance on the M1 corridor and the ramifications can be seen when our road network grinds to a halt when the CityLink tunnels are unavailable for traffic.

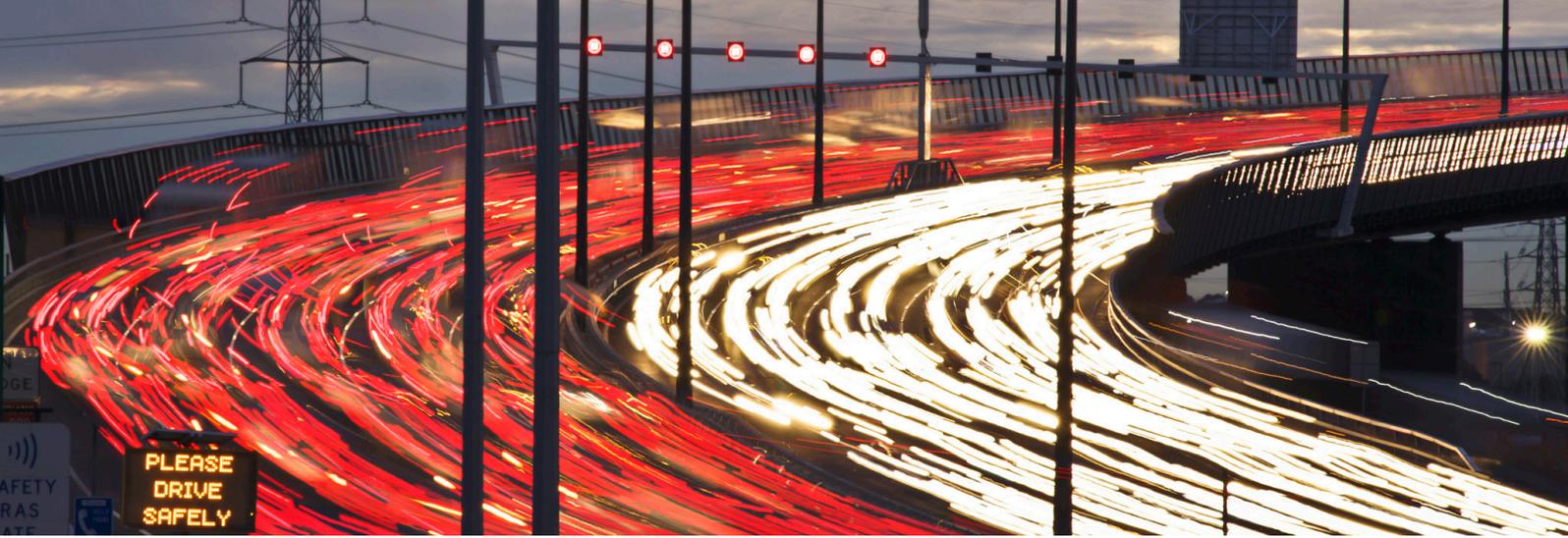
Today, congestion impacts our state's economy considerably and is expected to cost our community some \$6.1 billion per annum by 2020. Delivering major transport projects are necessary to reduce these costs and ensure we have an efficient economy.

Victoria is the nation's freight and logistics hub, contributing up to \$23 billion to Gross State Product in 2011 and accounting for up to eight per cent of the state economy. It is vital this industry has access to a modern roads network, which East West Link will deliver.

We note the substantial benefits outlined in the Community Impact Statement, such as:

- Securing 3200 jobs in the construction sector, Victoria's second largest provider of full time jobs, during project delivery;
- Reducing cross-city travel times by an average of around 20 minutes by allowing motorists to bypass up to 23 sets of traffic lights;
- Providing a much needed, long term alternative to the M1 corridor;
- Easing congestion at major hot spots including the Hoddle Street/Eastern Freeway interchange and Bolte Bridge;
- Reducing traffic on alternative routes, including Alexandra Parade, Johnston Street, Flemington Road, Boundary Road, Macarthur Road and Wellington Street;
- Enhancing road based public transport services, including for the 1,400 trams crossing Alexandra Parade each day and buses running along the Eastern Freeway, Johnston Street and Grattan Street;





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- Boosting social connectivity in the Melbourne's inner suburbs and providing residents across Melbourne with improved access to employment opportunities; and
- Enhancing connectivity between major employment and business districts such as Dandenong, East Werribee, Sunshine and Parkville as well as providing new links Melbourne Airport and the ports of Hastings and Melbourne.

Our organisations are united in the view that Victorians deserve to spend less time commuting in and around their own communities. We believe the Linking Melbourne Authority's Community Impact Statement thoroughly outlines the significant benefits our state stands to gain from this major project and identifies potential risks to ensure they are appropriately managed.

In addition to our strong support for the delivery of East West Link Stage 1 (between the Eastern Freeway/Hoddle Street interchange and CityLink), we collectively believe it is imperative for the delivery of further East West Link connections to the Port of Melbourne precinct and the Western Ring Road in order to secure Victoria's long term economic vitality.

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