



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Acting Premier of Victoria

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M1 STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN TAKES SHAPE OVER MONTAGUE STREET

The new Montague Street interchange is taking shape with the construction of three elevated structures and an 18 metre-high bridge as part of the biggest state-funded road project in Victoria's history, the \$1.39B M1 upgrade.

Inspecting progress on the new interchange, Acting Premier Rob Hulls said the bridge was affectionately known on the work-site as the 'stairway to heaven.'

"The Brumby Government is taking action now to ensure Victorians can have the best transport network in Australia," Mr Hulls said.

"The 'stairway to heaven' is an important part of the new interchange which will provide safer and easier access for motorists travelling between Kings Way and the tunnels and the Bolte and West Gate Bridges.

"This section of the project is progressing at an outstanding pace and the M1 upgrade is on schedule for completion in 2010.

"The M1 upgrade is the largest state-funded road project in Victoria's history and once complete will reduce congestion, improve reliability along the freeway, increase capacity by 50 per cent and reduce the incidence of casualty crashes by up to 20 per cent."

Mr Hulls said some temporary traffic changes were required during construction to provide a safe environment for workers and motorists.

"There will be some inconvenience for motorists using this corridor in the coming months while we get on with the job of improving it. VicRoads is doing all they can to keep disruption to a minimum," Mr Hulls said.

Project Director John Cunningham said motorists using Montague Street in the coming months would face some traffic changes.

"The Monash Freeway between Burke Road and Warrigal Road will also be closed in both directions on Friday and Saturday nights as we dismantle the East Malvern pedestrian bridge, which will be rebuilt mid year," Mr Cunningham said.

"On Friday and Saturday nights, progressive lane closures for inbound and outbound traffic will begin from 8pm, with full lane closures in both directions from 11pm until 8am the following mornings.

"Motorists should consider alternative routes and allow extra time to get to their destinations. A fully signed detour route will be in place via Dandenong Road (Princes Highway).

"Cricket fans attending the day-night match at the MCG tomorrow should consider using public transport to get to and from the game.

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“Further works on CityLink both inbound and outbound will also be taking place on Friday night until the early hours of Monday morning and will also involve lane closures in that section.

“Overnight resurfacing works east of Warrigal Road will continue throughout the weekend with lane closures through that section of the freeway as well.

“Motorists using the M1 during these times need to allow for extra travel time or take an alternative route.”

Mr Hulls said that the Dynon Port Rail Link project was also making great progress, with the city-bound lanes of the Footscray Road overpass opening to traffic this weekend.

“The Dynon Port Rail Link Project will significantly improve road and rail access to the Port of Melbourne,” Mr Hulls said.

“The project is separating road and rail access to the Port, easing congestion and improving safety at a major road and rail bottleneck.

“Now the Footscray Road overpass is complete, works will start building two new dual gauge rail lines into the Port of Melbourne from the Dynon terminal precinct to replace the existing single track rail line.”

The Dynon Port Rail Link Project is scheduled for completion in the middle of this year.

For further information about the Dynon Port Rail Link Project, visit www.transport.vic.gov.au/projects

A map of the M1 detour routes and further information is available on project website at www.mcwupgrade.com.au or by phoning the project hotline on 1300 881 137.