

12 August 2008

Pedestrian bridge to remain

Project Director for the Monash-CityLink-West Gate Upgrade, John Cunningham, has announced that a new York Road pedestrian bridge will be built as part of the \$1.39 billion freeway upgrade.

The York Road pedestrian bridge passes over the Monash Freeway east of High Street and connects Glenburn Bend Park and the popular Gardiners Creek Trail in Glen Iris with the other side of the freeway. Upgrade works on the M1 include adding two extra lanes from the CityLink tunnels all the way out to Heatherton Road. To carry out the widening works the existing York Road pedestrian bridge must be removed.

Mr Cunningham said that locals and regular users of the bridge had sent a clear message to VicRoads and its project partners that the bridge was important to keep.

“At the M1 project we were adamant that pedestrians and bike riders would not be disadvantaged in the long-term as a result of the road upgrade,” Mr Cunningham said.

“At the same time we wanted to make sure locals still had the access they wanted. Several months ago we asked the community if there were other options they preferred as an alternative to reinstating the pedestrian bridge.

“The feedback we received confirmed very strongly that people wanted the York Road pedestrian bridge reinstated after the road was widened.

“We have listened to the community and I am pleased to say that the bridge will be rebuilt.”

Works to dismantle the current bridge start next month and building the new bridge will begin when road widening works have finished. Until a new bridge is built users can safely cross the freeway by using either the Brixton Rise pedestrian crossing to the east or the Great Valley Road overpass in the west.

“Walking and cycling is more popular than ever before and not just because of the health benefits each bring. These days people are conscious of choosing more sustainable transport options and facilities like the pedestrian bridge make it all that much easier and safer,” Mr Cunningham said.

The Monash-CityLink-West Gate upgrade is a partnership between the State Government and Transurban to improve traffic flow and safety along the M1, one of the State’s busiest road corridors. It includes construction of extra lanes to help ease congestion and improve the flow of traffic along the Monash Freeway. Substantial improvements and extra lanes on the West Gate Freeway will also be constructed. A new intelligent freeway management

system will be introduced to further improve safety and capitalise on the benefits the improvements will bring. The entire project is due for completion by the end of 2010.

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