

Protect the option for a cross-city motorway

Recommendation 62



- Despite making up only 7% of the Victorian road network, Melbourne's motorways carry approximately 40% of arterial road traffic, supporting between four and five million trips daily.
- A cross-city motorway would facilitate travel for people and freight across the inner north of Melbourne by providing a connection between the West Gate Tunnel, CityLink and the Eastern Freeway.
- Infrastructure Victoria's strategic assessment found that there is no immediate need for a connection between the Eastern Freeway and CityLink as it has modest impact on congestion outcomes, but one may be necessary in the longer term, say in 20 to 30 years.
- Our recommendation is to protect the future option for a new cross-city motorway to ensure the corridor is available to support future transport solutions.
- Greater benefits from the project would be realised if active and public transport improvements and transport network pricing for Inner Melbourne are also implemented.
- Our modelling shows that under some scenarios, longer term growth and autonomous and electric vehicles could increase the number of car trips across Melbourne. This could mean the case for road projects will become clearer over time as technology changes eventuate.
- Victoria's infrastructure strategy 2021–2051 recommends protecting the option for a cross-city motorway as upgraded road connections improve economic growth and productivity and connect residents with jobs.
- Preparing for a long-term option also allows for the future design to be most appropriate, taking into account urban planning development, environmental considerations and the impact of new road infrastructure projects including North East Link and West Gate Tunnel.

