

PROJECT OVERVIEW

WATSON STREET INTERCHANGE

JULY 2023

We're planning for an upgrade to the Watson Street Interchange to improve safety, reduce travel times and cater for the rapidly growing population.

Overview

Major Road Projects Victoria (MRPV) is undertaking planning and development work to investigate options to upgrade the interchange at Watson Street and the Hume Freeway in Wallan.

We're investigating options to:

- create a full diamond interchange at Watson Street and the Hume Freeway, by adding south facing ramps (an outbound exit ramp and an inbound entry ramp)
- upgrade Watson Street to improve capacity and safety.

Status

We're currently developing a business case, which is expected to be complete in early 2024.

The business case is a comprehensive document that will provide a detailed examination of the interchange upgrade to help inform government decision-making.

To help inform the business case we're undertaking traffic modelling, constructability assessments, economic modelling, community engagement and environmental investigations.

This work will allow us to understand environmental and social impacts, develop design options and confirm scope and costs of different options.



Our planning is building on the previous development work undertaken by the Department of Transport and Planning (formally VicRoads). We're reviewing the technical studies and designs previously developed and are using these to inform our planning.

We're also considering any recent changes in the area, including population growth.

Image above: Watson Street – Hume Freeway Interchange



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Project timeline

- 
February 2019
 - Australian Government announced \$50 million of funding for upgrades to the Hume Freeway between the M80 Ring Road and Lithgow Street in Beveridge
- 
November 2022
 - Victorian Government announced up to \$130 million in funding, inclusive of the 2019 Australian Government \$50 million contribution
- 
Early 2023
 - MRPV's planning commenced including the development of a business case
- 
17 July to 6 August 2023
 - Community engagement
- 
Early 2024
 - MRPV's business case complete

Benefits

In our planning, we're seeking solutions to:



Improve access to and from the Hume Freeway



Improve travel times



Cater for the rapidly growing Wallan community



Improve safety



Unlock and support future urban development in the high-growth area



Improve freight connectivity between the Hume Freeway and Wallan East industrial estates

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