



Artist's impression of the Fitzsimons Lane and Main Road intersection, subject to change

FEBRUARY 2021

FITZSIMONS LANE UPGRADE



We're starting work

The Fitzsimons Lane Upgrade is another step closer, with BMD Constructions awarded the contract to deliver the project.

Upgrading these intersections will improve traffic flow and access to jobs, schools, shops and parks for the 60,000 people who drive through the area every day. It'll also enhance walking and cycling connections for the local community.

The project includes:

- new traffic lights at Main Road and Leane Drive intersection
- traffic lights to replace roundabouts at the Fitzsimons Lane and Main Road intersection and the Fitzsimons Lane and Porter Street intersection
- an upgraded signalised intersection at Williamsons Road and Foote Street
- opening bus lanes to all vehicle use between Porter and Foote Streets

- relocation of the iconic River Peel sculpture
- new walking and cycling paths
- safety barriers at key locations.

How will this benefit you?

The Fitzsimons Lane Upgrade reduces congestion in peak periods to provide more reliable travel times, improves safety and makes walking and cycling around the community safer.

What we heard from you

Consultation started in late 2018 and over the last two years we've listened to your feedback. We've made a number of key design changes across the project including new U-turns, even more walking and cycling connections at key locations, and improved bus priority at key locations.

We also heard your feedback about the new intersection at Main Road and Fitzsimons Lane. You told us:

- the community cherishes its environmental beauty and local character
- you are concerned about safety in peak times.

Our final design improves safety and reduces congestion in both the morning and afternoon peak, keeping locals and commuters moving.

Further design changes include reducing the number of lanes, which will enable us to retain more trees.

We'll keep consulting you throughout the build to ensure as many trees and community features are retained as possible.



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What we're doing

We're starting works on site. We'll start by setting up a site office nearby in Templestowe and undertaking a range of other activities described below to prepare for major works.

Over the next few months, we'll be completing site investigations, spending time setting up safe work areas and then starting to relocate or protect utility services and build drainage.

Initial construction activities will include:

- site investigations
- installing temporary fencing and traffic barriers to separate traffic from the worksite and create a safe work area
- removal of medians to create temporary pavement areas
- tree and vegetation removal
- relocation of utility services
- relocation of the River Peel sculpture to its new home.



Intersection of Main Road and Leane Drive

What can you expect?

We'll carefully plan our work to minimise disruptions and provide you with advance notice of scheduled changes so you can plan your movements.

We'll plan ahead and keep residents, businesses and motorists informed of our works through regular emails, SMS, project updates, electronic message boards, and a 24-hour contact line.

Working hours

Most works will be performed between 7am and 6pm, Monday to Friday and 7am to 2pm on Saturdays. In order to minimise disruption to the community and to take advantage of when the roads are quietest, we will work extended hours during school holidays, which will generally be between 7am and 10pm. Some works will need to occur overnight, and we'll provide advanced notice so that you can plan and prepare.

Where possible we'll complete phases of works with construction 'blitzes'. This means we'll work around the clock to complete the works quickly, minimise extended impacts and provide the community with the benefits of the upgrade as early as possible. We'll provide advance notice for any blitz activities so that you can prepare and plan ahead.

Noise and vibration

There will be some noise and vibration during construction. This may be generated from moving vehicles, machinery, rock breaking, reversing beepers or generators used to power equipment. Where works need to take place at night, we'll make all reasonable efforts to reduce noise where possible.

Driving, riding and walking

There will be changes to traffic conditions including temporary traffic lights, lane closures, speed limit reductions, local road access changes and full road closures with detours.

We'll need to move bus stops temporarily while we build the new intersections and you may need to walk a little further to get around.

We'll notify you of these changes before they happen. To receive this information promptly, please subscribe to email or SMS updates at roadprojects.vic.gov.au.

Detours, signage and traffic controllers will be in place to manage traffic flow and ensure all road users are able to safely navigate around our work areas. Access to private properties and businesses will be maintained at all times.

Respecting and managing the environment

We recognise that mature trees and vegetation are important to the local community and supports local biodiversity. Minimising the impact of vegetation removal has been an important consideration in the design and construction staging of the project. We'll protect trees and other sensitive vegetation with 'no-go zones' and have qualified fauna and flora handlers on call. We have a dedicated environment manager for the project.

Stay involved

As we start building there will be opportunities to have your say on other aspects of the project. This includes things such as landscaping, providing ideas on how we can reuse the timber from the trees we need to remove and other legacy items that will remain long after the project is finished.

Your feedback will also help us minimise inconvenience to businesses and residents as we plan for construction activities.

ALTERNATE DESIGN OPTION

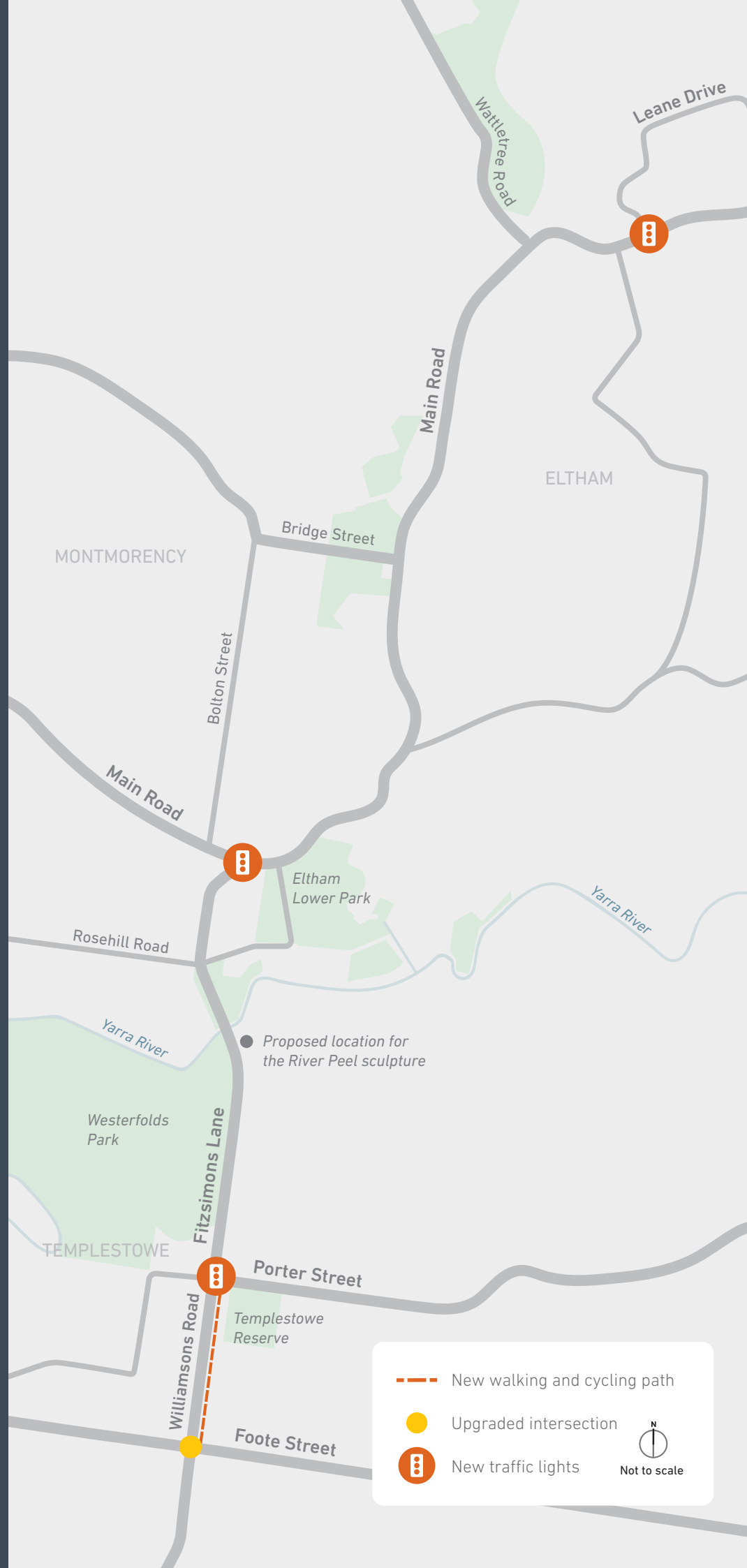
Main Road intersection

Enhancing the existing roundabout was not progressed for a variety of reasons including:

- doesn't resolve the existing safety issue caused by weaving from the south across Main Road to Bolton Street, and may actually make it worse
- doesn't provide the opportunity to link up traffic to the Bolton Street signals
- provides limited improvement for buses including two SmartBus routes
- lacks the required performance in the afternoon peak due to insufficient:
 - lanes through the intersection
 - queue space from the south
 - queue space for right turns into Bolton Street
 - won't alleviate existing queuing from the west to head south
- will still require significant tree and vegetation removal.

These issues mean a roundabout will be less safe, increase the risk of incidents and likely lead to risky driver behaviour.

A fully signalised intersection addresses all of the above and ensures Fitzsimons Lane can continue reliably catering for future traffic needs in a safe and effective way.





River Peel sculpture

River Peel sculpture

The iconic River Peel sculpture will be relocated from the Fitzsimons Lane and Porter Street roundabout to a site further along Fitzsimons Lane just south of the Yarra River. The new proposed location will ensure it will continue to be a gateway piece.

Plan your journey

We'll need to change how you move around the area whilst we are building the intersections.

There will be signs and detours in place to guide you and we'll always provide advance notice ahead of changes. We do ask that you expect delays and plan ahead.

Restricted access

To complete works safely we'll need to install barriers, close lanes and change how you move through the intersections.

Walking and riding

We'll ensure you can continue to walk and cycle through the area, however at times you may be detoured to safely move around the work area. Keep an eye out for directional signage.

Bus stops

We'll need to move bus stops temporarily whilst we build the new intersections. Visit ptv.vic.gov.au to subscribe to Public Transport Victoria weekly travel alerts.

Keeping you informed

We'll keep you updated throughout construction. Sign up for email or SMS updates at roadprojects.vic.gov.au/subscribe. For the latest traffic updates visit bigbuild.vic.gov.au.

Be on the lookout for variable message signs which we will use to inform you of upcoming traffic changes.

Project milestones

- Project announcement
- Reference design
- Initial public consultation
- Design refinement
- Site investigations
- Site set up and early works
- Utility protection and relocation
- Staged construction
- Project completion

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