We’re undertaking a planning study to investigate upgrades to the Midland Highway to improve safety, ease delays, and to improve efficiency for freight.

Project details
The Federal and Victorian Governments have committed $2 million to plan for upgrades and improvements to the Midland Highway between Shelford-Bannockburn Road, Bannockburn, and Geelong Ring Road (Princes Freeway), Geelong.

In this planning study, we will investigate transport, land use and economic benefits of possible upgrades as well as any potential social or environmental impacts on local people and drivers.

We’ll consult with local communities and businesses to develop options that will meet their future needs. Consultation is an essential part of this planning study and helps us to understand what is important to communities and drivers.

As part of this planning study, consultants WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff will investigate possible environmental, economic, social and land use impacts, as well as traffic management issues, and places of cultural heritage significance.

At this stage, there is no funding to construct proposed upgrades.

Why is a planning study needed?
The Midland Highway provides a vital link between Ballarat and Geelong, and from the northwest to the Port of Geelong and Melbourne.

Agriculture in this region plays a key role in the state’s food production, producing 21 per cent of Victoria’s eggs, 11 per cent of poultry, 5 per cent of pork, and 4 per cent of the state’s sheep and lambs.

In recent years, the Golden Plains Shire and the City of Greater Geelong have experienced significant residential growth. The population of Bannockburn and surrounding areas increased by over 30 per cent between 2006 and 2011. It is expected that this will continue to rise to over 12,000 people by 2036.

Have your say
Your ideas and feedback are a vital part of our investigations and in forming future options, as part of this planning study.

Public information session
Provide your ideas and feedback to help develop future options for the Midland Highway between Bannockburn and Geelong.

Date: Wednesday 22 March, 2017
Time: 3pm–7pm (drop in anytime)
Location: Bell Park Sports Club, 10 Lynnburn Rd, Batesford
What about other projects in the area?
The Victorian Government announced $10 million for the construction of overtaking lanes between Bannockburn and Meredith.
A total of four locations will be constructed: two overtaking lanes proposed between Bannockburn and Lethbridge, and two between Lethbridge and Meredith.
Construction will begin in 2018. More information is on the VicRoads website.

How can I find out more information?
Visit vicroads.vic.gov.au (search for Midland Highway)
Call 5225 2596
Email MidlandHighway@roads.vic.gov.au

Project steps

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Project steps</th>
<th>Phase 1 Identify area of interest</th>
<th>Phase 2 Concept designs</th>
<th>Phase 3 Alignment options</th>
<th>Phase 4 Public exhibition and approvals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We will be...</td>
<td>• Investigating the overall land and road use in the area.</td>
<td>• Completing draft designs.</td>
<td>• Finalising our proposal</td>
<td>• Presenting a business case to the government for future funding consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our objective...</td>
<td>• Raise project awareness • Identify potential issues and impacts • Understand community and individual concerns</td>
<td>• Discuss key issues and opportunities</td>
<td>• Continue discussions with the community • Gather feedback on route options</td>
<td>• To submit a business case that improves safety and efficiency, and reflects the needs of the community, tourists and the freight industry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your input will be used...</td>
<td>• In the early stages of project development</td>
<td>• To inform impact assessments and design options</td>
<td>• To refine options and refine mitigation measures</td>
<td>• To form the business case</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Status

- Underway
- Mid 2017
- Late 2017
- Early 2018

Midland Highway Duplication Planning Study

[Map of Midland Highway showing key locations and project area]