


# Westlink M7 - Travel Time Frequently Asked Questions

No	Question	Answer
<b>General information</b>		
1.	<b>What are the 'EST. TIME TO EXIT' messages displayed on electronic signs on the Westlink M7?</b>	<p>If you are travelling on the Westlink M7 you may see travel time estimates displayed on fixed electronic message signs. The system calculates estimates of how long it should take road users to reach certain motorway exits, based on the current traffic flow.</p> <p>For example, the image below shows the estimated time to travel from the message sign to the M4 motorway exit is 12 minutes and from the message sign to the M2 motorway is 24 minutes.</p> 
2.	<b>What is travel time?</b>	<p>The travel time information system displays the estimated length of time it should take to reach upcoming motorway exits, based on current traffic flow. Travel time estimates are updated on electronic message signs to reflect current travel conditions and provide the most accurate estimates. Typical travel time messages include major upcoming exits with estimated times.</p>
3.	<b>What are the benefits of travel time?</b>	<p>The main benefit of the travel time service is that you can see the estimated length of time it will take to get to and from certain locations. You can use this information to choose the best way to get where you're going.</p> <p>If you are planning to travel on the Westlink M7, you can check live travel times online before departing at <a href="http://Livetraffic.com">Livetraffic.com</a>. When travelling on the Westlink M7, you will see estimated travel times displayed on fixed electronic message signs.</p> <p>If travel times begin to increase, the travel time messages may be the first indicator of heavier traffic or an incident causing delays on the road ahead. This information can help you plan your trip.</p>
4.	<b>How does Westlink M7 travel time technology work?</b>	<p>The technology on the Westlink M7 works with regularly spaced in-road loops that detect vehicle speeds. Every minute a computer averages these speeds for the previous three minutes and sums up the time to travel along various sections of the Westlink M7. This average time to cover a distance is referred to as 'current traffic flow'.</p>
5.	<b>How many in-road loops are there?</b>	<p>There are over 150 in-road loops on the Westlink M7 spaced at about 500 metres to provide travel time estimates for road users in both directions.</p>
6.	<b>Are the tolling gantries used to calculate travel time?</b>	<p>The tolling gantries are not used for the travel time display system as they are not designed for this purpose and are not suitably located to provide real time information.</p>

7.	<b>How often are the times updated?</b>	Estimated travel times are refreshed and displayed on the Westlink M7 motorway electronic message signs every minute.
8.	<b>When are travel times displayed?</b>	The Westlink M7 travel time system operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
9.	<b>Are there occasions when Westlink M7 travel time estimates will not be displayed?</b>	If there is an incident on the Westlink M7 which causes a significant impact on traffic flow, road conditions or safety, the electronic message signs will be used to communicate specific information about the incident or traffic conditions, rather than travel time estimates.
10.	<b>Does the system read electronic tags?</b>	No, the Westlink M7 travel time system uses the in-road loops to detect travel speeds. It does not use tag information collected by the toll gantries.
11.	<b>What does it mean when the electronic message signs are blank?</b>	Every second electronic message sign is not used for travel time display and may appear blank if no other messages are being shown.
12.	<b>Why introduce travel time to the Westlink M7?</b>	Travel time technology already operates on the F3, providing regularly updated estimated travel times to motorists along key sections of the freeway. Due to the success of travel time on the F3, the technology has been rolled out on the Westlink M7, with other motorways to follow suit.
13.	<b>Will travel times be displayed on electronic signs on Westlink M7 feeder roads?</b>	Improvements to the travel time system will be considered after the initial roll-out has been in operation and assessed.