

## **Travel time - frequently asked questions**

### **What are the 'EST. TIME TO EXIT' messages displayed on electronic signs on the M7?**

Live testing of the travel time display system is taking place on the M7 from Thursday 11 August 2011. If you are travelling on the M7 you may see travel time estimates displayed on fixed electronic message signs as part of the testing program. During the travel time testing period, alternate electronic signs on the M7 will display the following notification message:

#### **TESTING**

#### **TRAVEL TIME**

#### **DISPLAY SYSTEM**

### **What is travel time?**

The travel time 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 every three minutes to reflect current travel conditions and provide the most accurate estimates. Typical travel time messages will include upcoming exits with estimated times.

### **Why test the system?**

Testing is being carried out by Westlink and will show live travel time messages on electronic signs on the M7. The purpose is to test the M7 travel time technology in real conditions. The live testing is part of preparations for the launch of the travel time system on the M7.

### **How long will testing last?**

Travel time testing on the M7 is scheduled to start on Thursday 11 August 2011 and will continue for up to two weeks, at various times, including peak periods.

### **How accurate will the travel times be during testing?**

During testing, the travel times cannot be assumed to be accurate.

### **What are the benefits of travel time?**

The main benefit of travel time is to see the estimated length of time it will take to get to and from certain locations. When travelling on the M7, you will see estimated travel times displayed on fixed electronic message signs. 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. You can use this information to choose the best way to get where you're going.

### **Why introduce travel time to the M7?**

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 is now being rolled out on the M7, with other motorways to follow suit.

### **When will travel time launch on the M7?**

Travel time is expected to be rolled out on the M7 by the end of September 2011.

### **How does travel time technology work?**

The technology on the M7 works with regularly spaced in-road loops that detect average vehicle speeds. Every three minutes a computer averages these speeds and sums up the time to travel along various sections of the M7.

**Are the tolling gantries used to calculate travel time?**

The tolling gantries are not used for the travel time information system as they are not designed for this purpose and are not suitably located to provide real time information.