

# Easy Merge-Safer Flow

An initiative to make freeway travel easier, safer and more reliable



# Easy Merge-Safer Flow

## What is Easy Merge-Safer Flow?

*Easy Merge-Safer Flow* is an initiative which will make your freeway travel easier, safer and more reliable.

Traffic congestion is common on Melbourne's freeways during peak times and often occurs around freeway entrances where a surge of traffic enters the freeway. This can cause the traffic on the freeway to slow down and sometimes results in stop-start conditions.

Congestion and stop-start traffic conditions on freeways delay traffic, cause frustration for motorists, extend journey times and increase the risk of crashes.

In order to address these problems, VicRoads has introduced a new system called *Easy Merge-Safer Flow* which will operate during peak periods.

The *Easy Merge-Safer Flow* system uses traffic lights to manage the rate at which vehicles are allowed to join freeway traffic.

The system is new to Melbourne. However it already operates successfully in the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States.

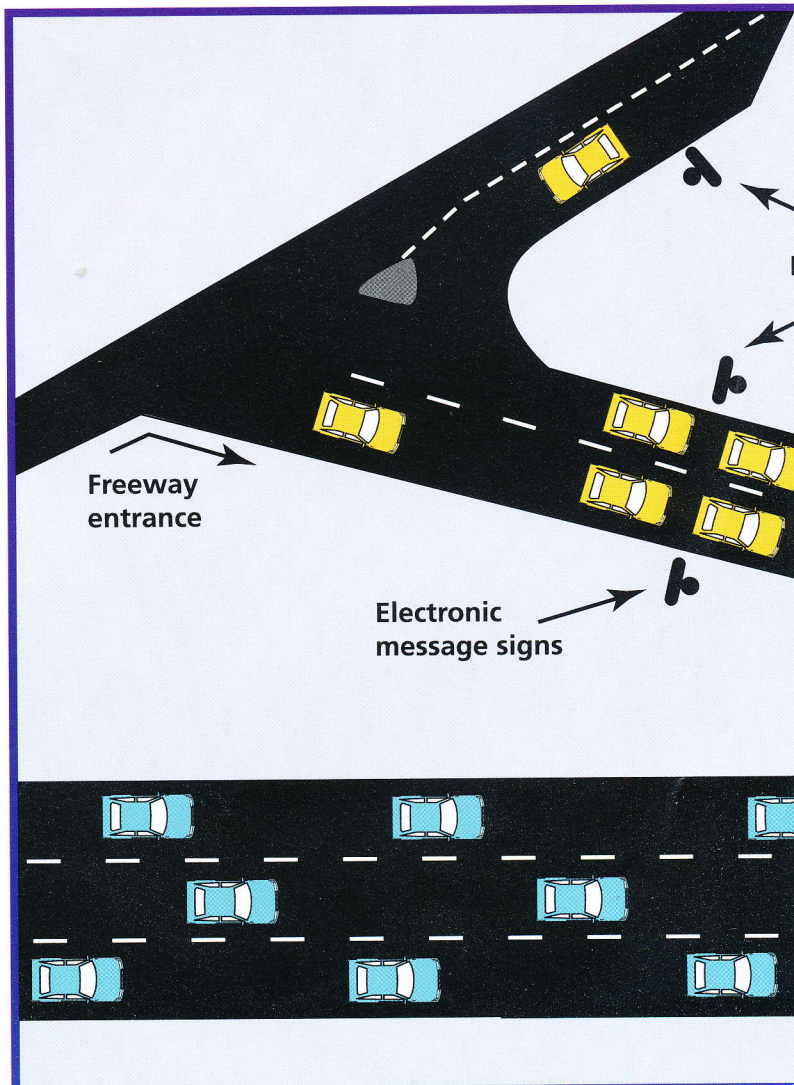
## What will I see on the road?

Electronic message signs at the freeway entrance will let you know if the *Easy Merge-Safer Flow* traffic lights are operating.

If the traffic lights are switched on, electronic message signs along the freeway entrance will advise you to 'prepare to stop'.



The *Easy Merge-Safer Flow* traffic lights



The *Easy Merge-Safer Flow* traffic lights will be located part way along the freeway entrance. They will have red, yellow and green signals, which have the same meaning as other traffic lights.

However, the red, yellow, green signal cycle will be much shorter than normal – typically switching every six to 12 seconds.

A white line will be painted on the road next to the traffic lights to show you where to stop.

Two sets of traffic lights will be attached to each pole. One set will be positioned lower down the pole so you can clearly see the lights while stopped at the white line. Another set will be positioned higher up on the pole to improve your visibility when approaching the lights.

Signs on the traffic lights will let you know that only one vehicle in each lane may enter the freeway on a green signal.

## How does the *Easy Merge-Safer Flow* system work?

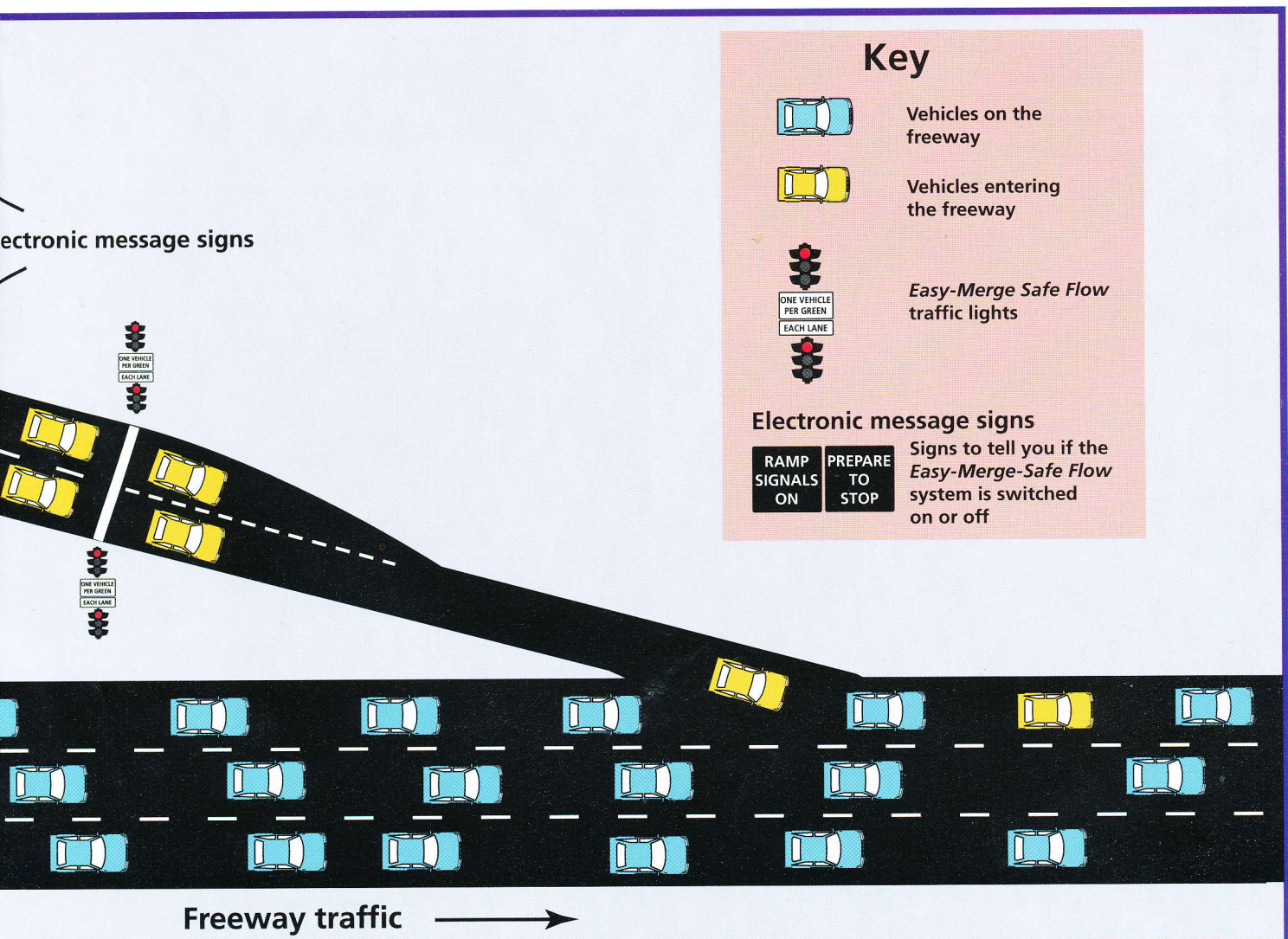
The *Easy Merge-Safer Flow* traffic lights will only operate during peak periods.

They will start working when roadway sensors indicate that traffic on the freeway and the freeway entrance is heavy.

When the system switches on, the yellow signal will flash for approximately one minute.

The traffic lights will then turn red and motorists on the freeway entrance must stop.

The light will then turn green long enough to allow one vehicle in each lane to join the freeway traffic. The signal will then quickly change to yellow before turning red for a few seconds.



# Easy Merge-Safer Flow

The traffic lights will then continue to switch between green, yellow and red until the freeway traffic flow improves.

This will create more space between vehicles joining the freeway traffic, and as a result, will make merging with freeway traffic safer and easier.

When sensors in the freeway and entrance indicate improved traffic flow, the *Easy Merge-Safer Flow* traffic lights will flash yellow briefly and then switch off.

## What to do



### When the lights are switched off

Merge with the freeway traffic as you would normally do.



### When the lights are flashing yellow

This occurs when the system is starting up or shutting down. You should merge with the freeway traffic as you would normally do.



### When the lights are red

Stop at the white line and wait for a green signal.



### When the lights are green

If you are the first vehicle in the queue, you can drive past the traffic lights and merge with the freeway traffic as you would normally do.

Other vehicles in the queue must wait their turn, as only one vehicle per lane is allowed to join the freeway traffic on a green light.

## What are the benefits?

The *Easy Merge-Safer Flow* system is expected to deliver the following benefits:

- easier and safer merging from freeway entrances
- reduced congestion and improved traffic flow on the freeway
- smoother travel and more reliable journey times
- improved safety for motorists joining the freeway traffic and for those already travelling on the freeway
- reduced vehicle emissions.

## For further information:

Contact VicRoads on (03) 9881 8028

or

Write to:

Regional Manager  
VicRoads Metropolitan South East Region  
Private Bag 4  
Mount Waverley VIC 3149



When the *Easy Merge-Safer Flow* traffic lights are red, stop at the white line