

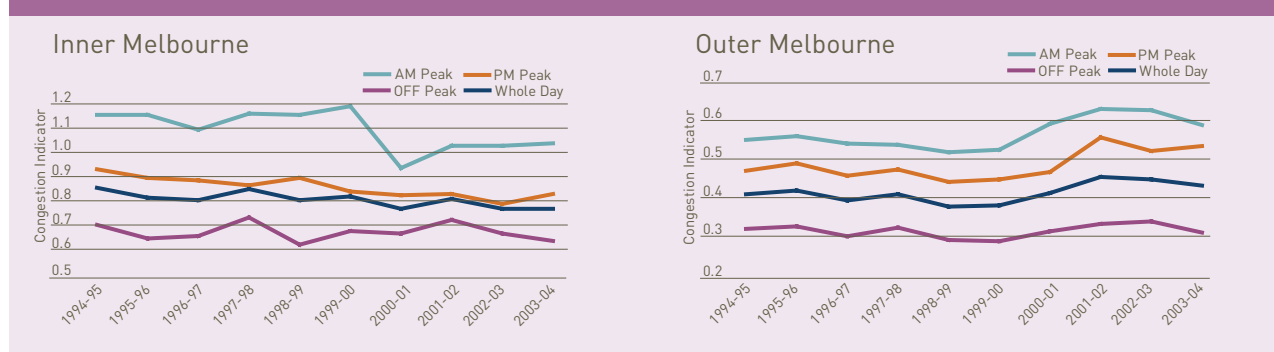
Congestion and peak traffic

Congestion in inner and outer Melbourne

Traffic congestion is used to monitor the impact of system performance on road users. It is based on comparing the actual travel time with a nominal travel time. Nominal travel time is based on the time taken to travel during off-peak periods.

Inner and outer Melbourne boundaries are shown in the Reference Maps booklet.

1 Inner and outer Melbourne congestion indicators 1994-2004

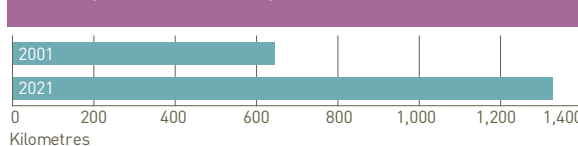


Projected congestion in Melbourne to 2021

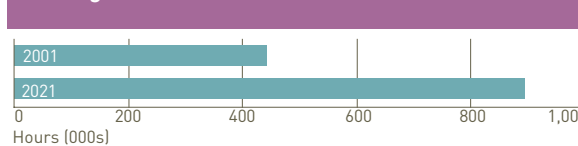
Modeling carried out in 2001 suggested that the length of Melbourne's congested roads would more than double by 2021, with similar increases in delays due to congestion. This increased congestion was projected to lead to average travel speeds falling from 19.7 kilometres per hour to 15.2 kilometres per hour in 2021.

The modeling also estimated that the length of road freight routes operating under congested conditions would double from 200 kilometres in 2003 to 400 kilometres by 2020.

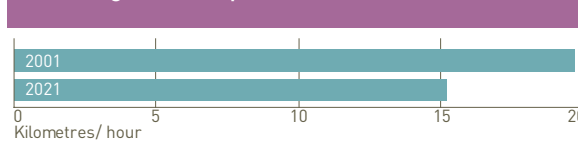
2 Congested road length 2001 and 2021



3 Congested vehicle hours 2001 and 2021



4 Average travel speed 2001 and 2021

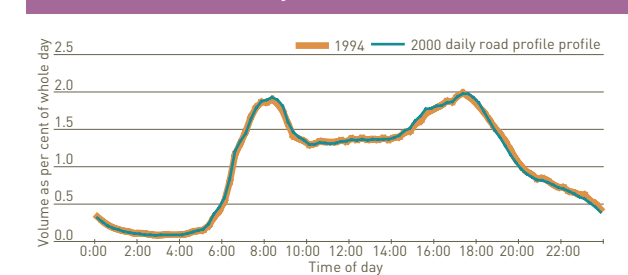


Daily road traffic profile

The daily traffic profile shows a very slight increase in length of the 2000 morning peak compared to the 1994 morning peak, along with a slight increase in load. The afternoon peak begins marginally earlier, grows more steadily and lasts longer, beginning around 2pm and growing steadily into the evening peak.

Commuters are a key influence on the daily profile. A comparison of the freeway daily profile to the general traffic profile highlights the role the freeway network plays in moving Melburnians to and from work. Outside of peak periods, freeway traffic volume is lower than the average daily traffic profile. As the network is getting busier, peaks are starting earlier and lasting longer.

5 Daily road traffic profile for typical metropolitan Melbourne weekday 1994 and 2000



6 Daily freeway profile 2000

