

We're on road to nowhere

More time spent in traffic jams

ALEKS DEVIC
TRANSPORT REPORTER

MOTORISTS are at a standstill for almost a minute for every kilometre travelled as traffic gridlock hits record highs.

VicRoads now wants Melbourneans to get off the road and seek alternative routes to ease congestion.

For a person living 25 kilometres from the city, they could find themselves stationary for 40 minutes in peak hour runs to work and then home. This would take their total journey return trip to about an hour and a half.

VicRoads time delay data shows for every 1km travelled in the morning peak, a motorist will spend 51.27 seconds sitting still in traffic jams, traffic lights or intersections, while in the afternoon 48.89secs are lost.

If travelling 25km, stoppage time has increased in the PM peak by more than six minutes since 2003-04.

The road body's figures show 76 per cent of people are driving to work, while 17 per cent jump on public transport and two per cent ride bikes.

Traffic modelling shows average delays in travel time



Traffic jams are a regular and frustrating part of the daily commute in Melbourne.

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across Victorian roads increased across all periods, but the greatest spikes are during the afternoon and morning peaks.

VicRoads figures show people are travelling further, with a 16 per cent jump — or 3.7 billion kilometres extra travelled

— since 2002. VicRoads Strategy and Planning executive director David Shelton said population growth, additional traffic lights and roadworks had increased delays.

"We certainly do encourage other modes of travel and, as a community, we do need to look at alternatives to simply getting in the car each day," Mr Shelton said.

"We see a lot of examples of poor decision making and risk taking on the roads, which cause crashes and debris and, consequently, delays. We need road users to hold some responsibility and evaluate their own behaviour on the road."

He said it would be "ben-

eficial for everybody" if more people rode their bikes.

Opposition roads and road safety spokesman Luke Donnellan said in four years under the Napthine Government not a single major road project to help ease congestion had been completed.

"Basic daily responsibilities like commuting to work, shopping, and dropping kids off a school are becoming more difficult," Mr Donnellan said.

In a bid to reduce delays, VicRoads is ensuring clearways are enforced and is using electronic speed signs and lane closure signals to help control traffic.

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