

## CASE STUDY: WESTLINK M7

MapInfo's Confirm Asset Management System helps keep the traffic flowing



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Mr Jamie Boulton  
Asset Manager, Westlink Services

### FACTS AT A GLANCE

- 17 interchanges, some require up to 320m
- The corridor comprises four traffic lanes (two in each direction), a wide central median, shoulders, cuttings and embankments
- 38 overpasses and underpasses to maintain local access for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists
- Built to a motorway standard, the Westlink M7 provides safe travel at variable speeds of up to 100km/h
- Shared bicycle and pedestrian pathway running the full length of the motorway
- Westlink M7 is a cashless, free-flow electronic tollway with no toll booths, no slowing or stopping

### Summary

As the population of Sydney continues to grow and the city limits continue to expand, the need for efficient motorways becomes increasingly important. The latest motorway in Sydney's network, the Westlink M7 opened in December 2005. It provides the link between the M2, M4 and M5 motorways in the western suburbs of Sydney. The 40km link is Australia's biggest urban project and is a key missing link in Sydney's orbital road network of motorways.

The Westlink M7 project first went on public exhibition in early 2001 and was approved by the New South Wales Government in 2002. The following year, Westlink Motorway Limited consortium entered an agreement with the Roads & Traffic Authority (RTA) to finance, design, construct, operate and maintain the Westlink M7 motorway. This consortium will continue to do so for a period of 34 years, after which it will be transferred back to the Government. Abigroup Leighton Joint Venture (ALJV) is responsible for the design and construction of the motorway, and the ongoing maintenance and operations is managed by Westlink Services.

The Westlink M7 consists of a 40km motorway with dual carriageway with a wide central median. It will link the M5 at Prestons in the south with the M4 at Eastern Creek and the M2 at West Baulkham Hills in the north. It will replace the Cumberland Highway as the National Highway link through Sydney and will provide a new route for the transport industry by taking heavy vehicles off local roads. Bypassing up to 48 sets of traffic lights, it is estimated the motorway will significantly cut travel times across western Sydney.

### The MapInfo asset management solution

Westlink Services uses MapInfo's product Confirm Pavement Management System (Confirm) to assist in the maintenance and operations management of the motorway. Mr. Jamie Boulton, Asset Manager Westlink Services said, “We needed an asset management database tool that held a high level of detail, was easy to configure and easy to use out in the field. Confirm Asset Management System met our functionality requirements.”

### Tracking of assets

Westlink Services uses Confirm to track the condition of all the assets along the 40km stretch of motorway. The ‘assets’ include the road surface, barriers, embankments, bridges, lighting points and even the systems for toll collection. “Our field agents use Confirm on handheld PDA's. With its integrated mapping function, they are able to quickly locate any asset at any point along the motorway. This visual aspect certainly makes it much faster for our team to carry out an inventory audit,” said Boulton.

### Historical Record

Keeping accurate records is another critical requirement for Westlink Services. “With Confirm we are able to collect and organise data to produce very accurate historical records of our maintenance work. For example, should we need to assess the condition of a bridge, the field agent is able to cross check all the elements using the historical data. Having such accurate data at our fingertips means we can make decisions more quickly. It will also greatly assist with our planning and reporting processes,” said Boulton.

## THE MAPINFO ADVANTAGE



Westlink Services uses MapInfo's Asset Management System, Confirm, to assist in the maintenance and operations management of the motorway. "We needed an asset management database tool that held a high level of detail, was easy to configure and easy to use out in the field. Confirm Asset Management System met our functionality requirements," said Boulton.

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### *Extensive functionality*

The Westlink Services team was looking for an asset management tool that did not require extensive customisation. "We needed an off-the-shelf, fully developed solution that was highly configurable yet straight forward to implement. We chose Confirm because it delivered on all

these fronts. Its extensive functionality means we can shape it to meet our needs in a timely and effective manner. We are aiming at achieving world's best practice and Confirm Asset Management System certainly puts us on the right road," said Boulton.

