



## Introduction

Welcome to the third edition of the A1 Upgrade News, which keeps you updated with all the latest news on the A1 Darrington to Dishforth scheme.

Copies of this newsletter are available from local shops, post offices, libraries and parish councillors.

## Who to contact

**Ian Dunn** is the single point of contact for issues that members of the public may have relating to the scheme. Ian can be contacted on **01977 688000**. Any comments and suggestions about this newsletter are welcome. Media enquiries should go to Government News Network on 0113 283 6593.



## How work is progressing so far

Since our last newsletter, we have passed several milestones in the project, with work on the Wetherby to Walshford stretch now in its final stages.

The former A1 between Wetherby and Walshford - which will become an extension of the A168 - has been reduced to one lane in each direction. Work to "tie in" the new section has been ongoing for several months and traffic has now been moved across from the existing A1 trunk road to the new motorway stretch.

For safety reasons, traffic restrictions and a 50 mph speed limit will continue to apply until construction work on the new section is fully completed in Spring 2005.

Once fully open, motorists will be able to enjoy the benefits of a new three-lane motorway.

## Background to the scheme

Road Management Services (RMS) is carrying out the work on behalf of the Highways Agency, as part of a 33 year Design, Build, Finance and Operate contract, awarded in February 2003.

The A1 is one of a number of projects being targeted for large-scale improvements across England's motorway and trunk road network.

As well as providing two new stretches of motorway between Ferrybridge and Hook Moor and between Wetherby and Walshford, safety improvements will include updating the motorway communications system.

Work on the project began in May 2003 and will take approximately three years to complete.

# A1 (M) Upgrade News

## UK's largest driver information sign installed over A1(M)

The biggest driver information sign of its type in the UK was installed above the northbound carriageway of the A1(M) during October.

The new "prismatic variable message sign", installed between junctions 48 (Boroughbridge) and 49 (Dishforth Interchange) was one of five being installed along this stretch as part of the A1 upgrade scheme, providing drivers with up-to-the-minute travel information.

The biggest sign stands at an impressive 18.5 metres wide and 4.6 metres high. At first glance it looks like an ordinary road sign, directing drivers to Thirsk, Teesside and Scotch Corner. But the sign face is made up of horizontal prism-shaped slats, which can be rotated to display up to three different messages to reflect road conditions, directing drivers to adjacent diversion routes in the event of accidents or delays.

In order to minimise disruption the signs were installed overnight when traffic flows were lower.



## Bridging the gap between old & new



October saw the successful completion and opening of the new York Road bridge, which carries B1224 traffic over the newly aligned A1. It replaces the old bridge, which was demolished during an overnight road closure.

Materials from the old bridge are now being recycled. The crushed concrete is being separated from the steel reinforcement and will be re-used during construction of embankments for the new A1 motorway.

Alistair Snart is the project manager overseeing the A1 Darrington to Dishforth project and has

over 20 years' experience dealing with major projects, including the A1 DBFO since the project began.

He said:

"The overnight closure to demolish the old York Road bridge was necessary to ensure the work could be carried out in safety. We are very grateful to local residents and motorists who have continued to be patient with us and we would like to apologise for any disruption caused as a result of the overnight work.

"Although we did anticipate some noise and disruption to local residents during the closure, we did on this occasion, require additional time to ensure that the demolition was carried out safely."



# Key Structures

## Holmfield Interchange

The new interchange at Holmfield will allow traffic to flow freely between the M62 and the A1(M) motorways and incorporates a network of slip roads between the main carriageways. Seven bridges are required to allow the roads to cross over the motorways and each other. These bridges have reinforced concrete piers, shaped to imitate the cooling towers of the nearby Ferrybridge Power Station.



## Lagentium Bridge

Lagentium Bridge will carry the new A1(M) across the River Aire. As the largest new bridge of the A1 upgrade scheme, it is 180 metres long and 36 metres wide, with a central span of 85 metres. Eight reinforced concrete piers, measuring up to 4 metres in height, have been cast on the banks of the river to support the steel beams that carry the bridge deck. It is due to be completed in summer 2005.



## Fairburn Railway Bridge

The A1(M) crosses the York to Castleford railway line at Fairburn. The bridge is 87 metres wide with an 18.5 metre span and has 43 pre-cast concrete beams to support the reinforced concrete deck. The use of pre-cast concrete minimises the time spent working within the railway boundary and minimises disruption to rail services.



## Longbull Hill Bridge

The M62 passes over the new A1(M) at Longbull Hill. The deck measures approximately 38m in width and 79 metres in length and is supported in the middle by a series of reinforced concrete piers and steel girders.



# Design Competition

## Calling all art enthusiasts...

One lucky artist will have the opportunity to see their artwork turned into reality at a key point along the A1 route, as part of a competition organised by Road Management Services and the Highways Agency.

They are calling on all art students, amateur artists, or anyone with a keen interest in the area to put forward their design ideas.

The judges will be looking for a design that is in keeping with and reflects the cultural heritage of the area. Artists can draw inspiration from any one of a number of local archaeological features, such as Ferrybridge Henge and the rare and nationally significant Iron Age chariot burial site, found during excavations along the A1 route last year.

The winning design will be turned into a piece of public art and will sit adjacent to the Ferrybridge Power Station, near Holmfield Interchange, overlooking a woodland area of ash and oak trees.

Designs should indicate materials to be used and should also include an explanatory design statement on a single A4 sheet. The design should be no larger than A0 and each entry is to be limited to four sheets of paper.



The closing date for designs is 6 February and should be sent to:

K Stubbs  
RPS Planning Transport and Environment  
Wellfield House  
33 New Hey Road  
Huddersfield  
HD3 4AL

For more detailed information about the competition, call 01484 543124.



## Stay Safe on the Roads this Winter

Drivers are being advised to following six key safe driving messages during the winter months. These are:

- The British winter is unpredictable. If you must drive during severe weather, make sure you are prepared for the conditions.
- Check local and national weather forecasts. Listen to travel information on radio.
- Take care around gritters and snowploughs. Don't be tempted to overtake snowploughs by squeezing into partially cleared lanes.
- It can take ten times longer to stop in icy conditions. Allow extra room to slow down and stop.
- Use the highest gear possible to avoid wheel spin. Manoeuvre gently and avoid harsh braking and acceleration. If you start to skid, gently ease off the accelerator and try to avoid braking. If braking becomes necessary, brake very gently.
- When driving in snow, make sure you're equipped with warm clothes, food, water, boots, a torch and spade.

Remember that tiredness kills. Take regular breaks from driving.