

YH/XXX/08

26 June 2008

A1 AT WETHERBY TO CLOSE OVERNIGHT FOR BRIDGE DEMOLITION

WEEKEND OF 28 – 29 JUNE 2008

MEDIA INVITATION: Highways Agency senior construction manager Sue Housley will be available for interviews on an ISDN line from 25 June. Please contact Eleanor Harte on tel: 0113 341 3181 to arrange.

The A1 at Wetherby, West Yorkshire, will be closed overnight in both directions this weekend 28-29 June, to allow the Highways Agency to safely demolish the disused Wetherby Grange bridge.

The A1 will be closed northbound from 7pm and southbound from 8pm on Saturday 28 June until 11am on Sunday 29 June between Walton Road and the A659 at Grange Moor. During these times, there will be signed diversion routes in place:

- Northbound traffic will exit the A1 at the A659 Grange Moor junction to use the new local access road and the A58, before re-joining the A1 at Walton Road.
- Southbound traffic will follow the same diversion but in the reverse direction, exiting the A1 via a temporary link road at Walton Road and re-joining the A1 at Grange Moor.

Drivers should allow extra time for their journeys while the diversion route is in place.

The work is part of the A1(M) upgrade project between Bramham and Wetherby. A new bridge over the A1 at Wetherby Grange, for which bridge beams were installed in April, will be opened to traffic before the demolition takes place.

Highways Agency senior construction manager Sue Housley said:

“It will be necessary to close the A1 at Wetherby overnight this weekend to allow for the safe demolition of the old Wetherby Grange bridge. This follows a closure in April to install beams for the new bridge, which will cross the newly upgraded A1.

“We will be demolishing the bridge piece by piece so the road will be closed for several hours. However, the closure will take place overnight – when traffic flows are lower – to limit any delays to drivers. During the closures, there will be signed diversions in place via the new local access road, which sits parallel to the existing A1. We do not anticipate any significant delays, however, we advise drivers to allow a few minutes extra for their journeys.

“There will be some noise throughout the night. However, we do not expect this to cause a significant disturbance to local residents.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. The Highways Agency is an executive agency of the Department for Transport. It manages, maintains and improves England's motorways and trunk roads on behalf of the Secretary of State.
2. The £61 million A1(M) Bramham to Wetherby upgrade scheme has been underway since May 2007. An Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) contract was awarded to Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering Ltd in September 2003. They have appointed Atkins Consultants as their designer. The scheme is due to be completed in summer 2009.
3. Real-time traffic information for England's motorways and major A roads is available:
 - From the web at www.highways.gov.uk/trafficinfo
 - By phone from the Highways Agency 24-hour voice activated phone service on 08700 660 115. (Calls from BT landlines to 0870 numbers will cost no more than 8p per minute; mobile calls usually cost more).

Before using a mobile, find a safe place to park. Never stop on the hard shoulder of a motorway except in an emergency. Make sure it's safe and legal before you call.

4. For more general information about the Highways Agency and its work, visit the Highways Agency website www.highways.gov.uk, or telephone the Highways Agency Information Line on 08457 50 40 30 at any time. (Calls to 0845 numbers cost no more than 3p/min from BT residential landlines. Call charges from other landlines and mobile networks may vary)

For enquiries from the media, journalists and researchers only, the Highways Agency's press officers at COI News and PR, Yorkshire and the Humber, can be contacted on 0113 341 3180, or e-mail sheila.perry@coi.gsi.gov.uk Media enquiries out of hours should be made to the Highways Agency National Press Office on 0207 081 7443.

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE HIGHWAYS AGENCY BY COI NEWS AND PR
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