

## M1 Junctions 6A to 10 Official Completion Ceremony

### Foreword

Throughout the entire construction period the M1 J6A -10 project team have been faced with a number of challenges. The biggest one, being to ensure that the 160,000 customers using this stretch of motorway every day, were able to continue their journeys whilst the works were carried out.

The delivery of the scheme itself has been a huge challenge, delivered by an enthusiastic team working diligently to ensure that the scheme met target cost, kept to programme, and importantly maintained an outstanding safety record.

All these elements are a testament to the client, contractors, and suppliers all working to deliver the project with pride and demonstrating the value of a positive approach to partnering. Further endorsement of the effectiveness of the team has been received in the format of a number of accolades achieved over the past two years, which includes a Considerate Constructors Award, the Green Apple Award for re-cycling and sustainability, and the Prince Michael of Kent International Road Safety Award.

I am delighted to announce the formal completion of the widening of the M1 J6A to 10 after nearly 3 years and look forward to the long term benefits of the enhanced motorway. I would like to thank the local residents and the road users for their patience shown during construction.

### What are we celebrating?

In the year that marks the 50th anniversary of the first UK motorway, we are celebrating the completion of the M1 J6A to 10 widening scheme today, Friday 23 January 2009, by Geoff Hoon, Secretary of State for Transport.

On 19 December 2008 the M1 motorway from Junction 6A to 10 was opened to four lanes in each direction running at 70 mph following completion of the widening works. Balfour Beatty Skanska Joint Venture with their designers, Atkins, has delivered the project for the Highways Agency ahead of schedule. During the project careful planning has minimised disruption and kept traffic moving.

### Safe Roads

- maintaining a speed limit of 50mph throughout the project enforced by average speed cameras
- separating traffic from workers using temporary vehicle safety barriers

### Reliable Journeys

- keeping three lanes open at all times during the day between peak periods and only closing lanes for essential works during the night
- using a network of 126 CCTV cameras to monitor traffic
- attending accidents and breakdown incidents quickly and offering a free recovery service

## Informed Travellers

- giving advance warning to road users and the local media about works to be carried out, lane closures etc.
- keeping both our website and roadside message signs up to date with closures and diversions

## Project Information

Following the Public Inquiry in 1995 the Project was put on hold until December 2003 when the Orders were finally made. Detailed design of the Project commenced in 2005 and construction began in early 2006.

Due to congestion it was necessary to widen the road in both directions to four lanes and improve the junctions and slip roads. Up to 160,000 vehicles per day used this section of the M1 between Junction 6A and 10 (M25 in the south to the junction for Luton Airport in the north).

## The project achieved:

- 17km of widening of the motorway to four lanes
- demolition and re-construction of seven over bridges
- widening of ten under bridges
- construction of three slip road under bridges
- re-construction of three Junctions
- construction of a collector distributor road parallel to the motorway to take A414 non motorway traffic

## Facts & Figures

- 520,000 tonnes of blacktop were used to surface the carriageway
- 1.22 million tonnes of aggregate - 93% of the total aggregate used on the project was recycled material
- 1.65 million m<sup>3</sup> of earthworks material
- 96,268m<sup>3</sup> of concrete
- 33.2km of concrete safety barrier
- 35,000m of temporary lighting
- 17,000m of permanent lighting
- 550 new lighting columns
- 64 new gantries
- 140km communication cabling
- 126 CCTV roadside cameras
- 6,300m of environmental barrier
- 35,000m of boundary fencing

## Safety achievements

- as of December 2008 over four million manhours have been worked on the project
- currently 1.5 million manhours have been worked since November 2007 without a lost time injury

## Traffic Management

We have:

- reduced road accidents throughout the 17km of the project
- separated traffic from workers using temporary safety barriers
- used temporary barriers to separate the traffic from the works site area

## Awards

- Prince Michael of Kent International Road Safety Award December 2008
- Highways Agency Site Safety Award
- Highways Agency Best Safety Project Award
- Highways Agency Site Safety Workforce Award
- Highways Agency Customer Care Award

## Environmental achievements

At all times the M1 J6A to 10 project aimed to reduce waste and recycle as much waste material as possible. This was recognised with the award of a “Green Apple” National Champion Award.

Wherever possible, the project has sought to minimise and mitigate disturbance to wildlife through extensive ecological surveys. Measures taken have included the construction of an artificial sett to 're-home' displaced badgers and erection of 100 bird boxes and 45 bat boxes.

- longer and safer onslip roads at junctions
- a new collector distributor road taking traffic from the motorway to Hemel Hempstead and St Albans
- resurfaced motorway between Junctions 6A to 10 with low noise asphalt will help reduce noise for those residents living near or alongside the M1
- less congestion through increased road space
- controlled motorway techniques capable of displaying variable speed limits to help smooth traffic flow and reduce congestion

## Helping the environment

- used 93% of aggregates from recycled materials
- carried out ecological surveys for the whole site
- cleared roadside vegetation outside of bird nesting season
- designed drainage in consultation with the Environment Agency – includes 20% extra climate change capacity
- planted roadside drainage ponds with 43,000 aquatic plants to create wetland ecology
- built an artificial sett for displaced badgers in co-operation with local landowner
- planted 190,000 trees and shrubs including 4,150 oak trees and 60,000 including 2,000 native English bluebells
- recycled 60% of day to day construction wastes
- provided composting and wormery at the Junction 8 compound

## Scheme benefits to the public

The benefits include:

## Community relations

We kept local residents informed and engaged through:

- exhibitions to raise awareness of what would be happening
- regular meetings with local councils, site visits and printed newsletters for residents and businesses
- building good relationships with local schools and giving presentations about the project and on the dangers of playing around construction sites
- providing four local schools with their own wormery to encourage recycling

## Local Organisations

- a local scout group held a meeting in our visitors centre where they met Highways Agency Traffic Officers who patrol the M1. They listened to a talk about the M1 widening work
- volunteers from the M1 project team worked with Groundwork and Countryside Management to help clear shrubs and bushes along the Nickey Line, which is a disused railway/ nature walk

## Donations

Whilst working in the area, Balfour Beatty Skanska have made donations to various organisations including:

- The Air Ambulance
- The Wish Tree Charity
- Slip End Parish Council
- Action for Children
- Groundwork

## Heritage & Archaeology

A considerable amount of archaeology work was carried out before construction work started. We arranged for the leading archaeologist from Atkins to give a talk to the children in a local school taking along some of the finds so they could not only see and hear about them but they were able to handle them as well.

We held exhibitions in Leverstock Green and Redbourn and gave talks to local historical societies.

## Customer feedback

“I write to compliment the Highways Agency and the contractors for a job well done and for the easing of congestion that the finished product has made possible. The works seem to have been finished early, and it was great that they were finished before the Christmas holidays.”

“A million thanks for a fast efficient service. It was so good to get complete reassurance at a time I was feeling alone and vulnerable having broken down on the motorway. Great to see a friendly face. Cannot praise the service enough – courteous service, comfortable recovery room – great!”

“This is a very useful service. The driver was polite. It was such a relief when he arrived to pick us up. Thanks a million!!”

“This unexpected service was excellent. Your employee, Eric was very helpful and cheerful – especially as I was a bit shaken up by my car accident. The other drivers thought this also. Many thanks. Commendations of your excellent employees.”

“Excellent service and facilities. Polite and efficient recovery crew. Food, drink and toilets.”

“A very slick operation. Very little waiting and a nice lounge to await the AA. Thank you very much.”

## Team members

The Highways agency project was overseen by Project Manager, Geoff Bethel. The work was carried out on the Agency's behalf by:

Contractor: Balfour Beatty Skanska - Project Manager, John Hollaway

Client's Representative - WSP - John Patey

Project Designers: Atkins - Design Manager, Joh Elliot

In partnership with Balfour Beatty Skanska and designers, Atkins, the Highways Agency has delivered the project ahead of schedule and taken great care in planning to limit any delays and keep traffic moving on this very busy section of the motorway network.

**We would like to thank all of the road users, local residents and key stakeholders for their patience and support during the works.**

For real time traffic information:

**08700 660 115**

[www.highways.gov.uk/trafficinfo](http://www.highways.gov.uk/trafficinfo)

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

(Calls from BT landlines to 0870 numbers will cost no more than 8p per minute; mobile calls usually cost more)

For general Highways Agency information:

**08457 50 40 30**

email: [ha\\_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk)

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

(Calls from BT landlines to 0845 numbers will cost no more than 4p per minute; mobile calls usually cost more)

## Safe driving at roadworks

*Remember that tiredness can kill. Take regular breaks from driving.*



**During 2006 two workers were killed and 19 seriously injured in the course of their work on Highways Agency roads.**

For the safety of all road users and roadworkers, when you are approaching roadworks:

- Keep within the speed limit – it is there for your safety.
- Get into the correct lane in good time – don't keep switching.
- Concentrate on the road ahead, not the roadworks.
- Be alert for works' traffic leaving or entering roadworks.
- Keep a safe distance – there could be queues in front.
- Observe all signs – they are there to help you.