

M1 Junctions 6A to 10 Widening Project Newsletter Issue 4 May 2008

Welcome

....to the fourth in our series of Newsletters for the M1 Junction 6A-10 Widening Project. Once again we are pleased to report that, since the last edition, a significant amount of work has been successfully completed and the project, which is now well into its third and final year of construction, has progressed considerably in the period.

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Progress to date

The project continues to progress well and is still on target for completion in December 2008. Some of the key aspects of construction progress achieved in the seven months since the last Newsletter are noted below;

- all of the seven new overbridges being constructed over the Motorway are complete
- the new Junction 10 interchange is now complete and operational
- seven of the ten underbridges being widened under the motorway are now complete and the remaining three are well advanced.
- Construction of the new Junction 8 bridge is complete and the new J8 interchange at Hemel Hempstead is well advanced
- carriageway widening in Section One has been completed
- carriageway widening in Section2 (J8 to J6a) is progressing as planned on both the north and southbound carriageways
- The new Highways Communication system has been installed in Section One including new overhead gantries and electronic message signs

Works planned for the remainder of 2008 include:

- The last of seven motorway over-bridge demolitions took place successfully at Junction 8 during an 18 hour overnight motorway closure on 15 March
- Section One of the works will be completed in May
- Carriageway widening will be completed to the north and south bound verges and central reservation in Section Two
- The 'collector / distributor' roads being constructed parallel to the motorway at J8 will be completed



- The new Junction 8 interchange, including the use of the new bridge, opened on 17 March
- The newly widened motorway and associated Highway Communications system will be completed and the motorway opened to four lane running at 70 mph in December 2008

This is our timetable for the main works

Section 1

- North of junction 10 to south of junction 9 – complete end May 2008

Section 2

- Southbound carriageway, South of junction 9 to junction 6A by June 2008
- Northbound carriageway South of junction 9 to junction 6A by end July/early August 2008
- Central Reservation South of junction 9 to junction 6A by end November 2008
- Final Overall Commissioning and System Stabilisation period by December 2008

Traffic Management

Some 160,000 vehicles continue to pass through the work site every day. To ensure the safety of the travelling public and our workforce it is necessary to periodically change the layout to maintain a three lane flow of traffic.

Traffic Management regimes are designed and developed through the Traffic Management Forum in which all Project and Third Party Stakeholders are represented. This includes the police and other Emergency Services.

The Traffic Management regimes are considerably designed with firm emphasis being placed on efforts to minimise any effect on journey time through the works, as well as providing a safe environment for the travelling public and project delivery personnel.

50mph Speed Limit

A reduced speed limit is in force through the work site and this is set at 50mph. The speed

limit is enforced through the use of an average speed monitoring system. The combined effect of both ensures a safer environment for both road user and road worker, as well as providing more efficient and consistent journey time through the road section.

The project has achieved an excellent traffic safety record to date with a significant reduction in the number of accidents over this section of the M1 since the project commenced in March 2006.

Vehicle Recovery

A full Vehicle Recovery service is provided within the limits of the roadworks 24 hours per day 365 days per year.

The motorway is monitored via 120 CCTV cameras that are viewed from a Control Room located at the Junction 8 project offices. Specially trained observers identify breakdowns and other incidents and despatch the Vehicle Recovery service to the relevant location.

Stranded motorists are recovered to a dedicated customer care centre within the Junction 8 office complex where they can use specially provided facilities to plan their onward journey.

More than 12,000 stranded vehicles and their occupants have been safely recovered from the motorway since the start of the project in March 2006.

Environment

Green Apple Award

The M16A-10 Widening Project was recently recognised and acknowledged by the award of the prestigious Green Apple Award for re-cycling and sustainability (Overall National Champion category).

The presentation was made by Professor David Bellamy at the House of Commons in November. The project continues to promote its Green credentials by employing a number of environmentally friendly initiatives on the project, including the use of more than 1 million tons of recycled aggregates in the widening works.

Our thanks and congratulations go to Stephen Phipps, Evelina Maier and Steve Barnes of BBS JV for their contribution to this process and for preparing the competition submission.

Safety Quiz Champions

We are proud to announce that the Balfour Beatty Major Civil Engineering Safety Challenge Quiz 2007 was won by a team fielded from the M1 J6A-10 Project.

Our congratulations are extended to Tony Marsh, Austen Richards, Kevin Brough and Mike King (pictured). The team fought a tough first round contest against four other teams held at the Runnymede hotel in Egham followed by the final which was held in central London in November.

Considerate Constructors Scheme

Over the last ten years the Considerate Constructors Scheme has become established to promote a more positive image of the construction industry.

Entry to the scheme is voluntary and a project is scored against eight key criteria which include being a good neighbour, working safely and considerately.

During the life of the widening project, the joint venture has been audited three times. Following the third audit, the project was presented with a silver award which places the project within the top 7% of all registered schemes in the UK.

The presentation took place at the CC Awards Ceremony in London on 10 April 2008. The project team is now targeting a gold award during the remainder of the scheme.

Community Relations

Archaeology Exhibitions

In early October 2007 we held an archaeology exhibition at Leverstock Green Village Hall and were pleased to be joined by the Leverstock Historical Society and Dacorum Trust, both of whom exhibited. Some of the finds from the M1

6a – 10 digs were also on display. Our project archaeologist was on hand to answer queries from many of the 230 visitors.

In early March we held an archaeology exhibition in Redbourn at which residents had an opportunity to meet with the archaeologist and discuss the work.

Schools Visits

During the Autumn of 2007 we continued our programme of presentations, this time concentrating on the environment. The children heard how the project team works alongside the ecologist to safeguard the wildlife, and gained an understanding of the regulations we have to abide to before and during construction of the widening works.

During the first half of 2008 we shall be visiting the children again this time with the archaeologist who will explain the work undertaken along the M1 prior to the works commencing. This talk will cover the Roman, Iron and Medieval Ages.

At our junction 8 compound we have built a wormery which is being used to recycle kitchen waste. We have presented some schools with their own wormery which are now being looked after by the children.

St. Andrew's Church holiday club

The children at the holiday club held at St. Andrew's Church, Slip End, had a visit from the BBS team during half term week. We went along to talk to them about the environment work being carried out on the project, needless to say the children found the section on the animals the most interesting.

Visits to the M1

At the beginning of September hosted a visit from ten civil engineering students from Switzerland. The two lecturers accompanying the students, translated some of the technical information into Swiss German for them. The students, all within six months of completing

their studies, were very interested to see such a busy UK motorway.

Their day started with a welcome from the Highways Agency and a site visit. Further presentations were given about the work of the agency and the motorway system in the UK and specifically on the M1 project.



For real time traffic information:

08700 660 115

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

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.