

M1 Junctions 6A-10 Widening News

KEEPING LOCAL RESIDENTS INFORMED ABOUT THE SCHEME ISSUE 1 February 2006

Welcome to the M1 Junctions 6A to 10 Widening Project Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter about widening the M1 motorway between junctions 6A (M25) and 10 (Luton). This work is due to start in the next few weeks and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2008.

Throughout the construction period the M1 team is committed to meeting a number of challenges. We will ensure the safety of the public and our workforce; minimise the impact of the works on the local community; minimise delays to M1 users; and protect the environment during construction.

This is the first of our newsletters which we will produce regularly during the construction period to keep you informed about progress. Our first newsletter tells you:

- why the work is needed;
- what construction work we will be carrying out;
- how we will minimise disturbance to you and the local community;
- what we are doing to keep the traffic flowing; and
- how to contact us

We hope you find the newsletter interesting and informative. We welcome your comments and queries. Our contact details can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Neil Owen
Team Leader
Highways Agency



John Hollaway
Project Manager
Balfour Beatty -
Skanska Joint Venture



Public exhibitions

We are to hold a number of Start of Works Public Exhibitions in the areas surrounding the works to inform local residents of the scheme and the work that will be carried out. These exhibitions are to be held in February and March 2006 at the following locations:

- **Friday 24 February**, 2.00pm-9.00pm, Holiday Inn, London Road, Markyate, AL3 8HH
- **Saturday 25 February**, 11.00am-4.30pm, Marlborough School and Science College, Watling Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 2QA
- **Saturday 4 March**, 11.00am-4.30pm, Adeyfield Community Centre, The Queens Square, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 4EW
- **Friday 10 March**, 2.00pm-9.00pm, Peter Edwards Hall, Slip End
- **Saturday 11 March**, 11.00am-4.30pm, Redbourn Village Hall, 63 High Street, Redbourn, AL3 7LW

Please come along and meet the team to discuss any questions you might have and to view the wealth of information that we have to share with you about the M1 widening scheme.

M1 Junctions 6A-10 Widening News

The need for the scheme

The M1 is a strategic part of the network linking London with the Midlands and the North. It is used by 160,000 vehicles per day estimated to grow to 200,000 by 2023.

Currently the M1 suffers frequent congestion, weaving traffic near junctions and a poor accident record.

Advance works for the M1 scheme began in November 2005. The main works are programmed to start in March 2006 with completion due in December 2008.

What we will be doing

- The works will cover 10 miles/17km from junctions 6A (M25) to J10 (Luton).
- Work will be carried out on both carriageways to bring it up to full four lane motorway standard with continuous hard shoulders.
- Widening between Junctions 6A-7 Southbound; Junctions 8-9 Northbound and Southbound; Junctions 9-10 Southbound.
- New parallel local roads between junctions 7 and 8 for local traffic between Hemel Hempstead and St Albans.
- Major re-modelling of Junction 8 and Junction 10.
- Minor re-modelling of Junction 9.
- The M10 will become the A414 on completion of the works.



Scheme Route Map

This is our timetable for the main works:

Widening of the M1 will be carried out in four major phases:

Southbound	Section 1	North of Junction 10 to North of Junction 8	March 2006 to
Northbound		North of Junction 10 to North of Junction 8	November 2007
Southbound	Section 2	North of Junction 8 to Junction 6A	June 2007 to
Northbound		North of Junction 8 to Junction 6A	December 2008

Advance works are already underway...

Some advance works have already begun. These include:

- Topographical, drainage and ecological surveys;
- Diversion of services (electricity and water);
- Installation of motorway communications interrupter cables (these carry the motorway signalling information across the section being widened);
- Clearance of existing vegetation and redundant fencing;
- Installation of CCTV systems to monitor the area of traffic management.

M1 Junctions 6A-10 Widening News

Minimising impact on the local community....

We will protect the environment, including plants and wildlife during the course of the work

Balfour Beatty Skanska Joint Venture (BBSJV) will endeavour to minimise the effects of the M1 construction works, not only for the motorist but also the neighbouring communities, including residents and businesses. We will continue to liaise with the local councils throughout the life of the project.

Advance warning of any unavoidable night work

During the project there will be essential work that can only be carried out at night. BBSJV will ensure that advance notices are circulated to all parties that will be affected by the night work. These notices will consist of letters to local residents and local authorities, as well as flyers left in local service stations, post offices, community centres and libraries.

On occasions, the M1 motorway will have to be closed overnight to allow bridge demolition to be carried out. At these times, newsletters will be distributed to advise both local residents and road users of the closure and diversion routes.

In addition, there will be other press announcements and publicity.

We will update you as the work progresses

We will inform you and other residents, as well as the local and wider communities, as the project progresses.

We will keep local people and motorway users updated through:

- publicity in local media; further newsletters; and letters delivered door-to-door;
- exhibitions and presentations to the local community;
- advance warning and information signs on the motorway;
- the Highways Agency website;
- the Traffic England helpline;
- radio travel bulletins

Protecting the environment

Advance works already underway

Some advance works have already begun to ensure the main construction can start unhindered. These include ecological and archaeological works. An environmental plan is in place which takes into account the following factors;

Ecological works to protect plants and wildlife:

- consultation with regulatory and advisory bodies;
- site surveys;
- moving species and habitats that might be adversely impacted by road-widening; and
- assessment of ecological information needed for detail design of the building work.

Measures

to minimise impact on local residents:

- noise protection through the use of low noise surfacing;
- visual protection through the provision of earth mounding, environmental screen fencing and screen planting.

Roadworks design tailored to avoid disturbing archaeology:

Archaeological surveys are being carried out to minimise disruption to the project. Any significant finds will be reported in future editions.

Our design will be tailored to avoid any significant impact on areas of archaeological interest.

M1 Junctions 6A-10 Widening News

Keeping the traffic flowing...

We will only close lanes at times of reduced traffic flow

Three lanes of the M1 will be kept open in each direction during peak traffic flow throughout the construction.



We will only close lanes at times of reduced traffic flow, for essential night-time works. Closures will be agreed in advance with the local motorway police and the Highways Agency.

Contraflows and speed limits to keep everyone safe

In order to facilitate construction works, it will be necessary to implement contraflows and narrowed lanes. A speed limit of 40mph will be imposed throughout the roadworks, to enhance the safety of the travelling public and our workforce, and this will be rigorously enforced by safety cameras.

We will keep people away from danger

The contraflows will keep vehicles as far away as practicable from the motorway workforce. At the same time, we will maintain the existing six lanes of traffic – three in each direction. Vehicles wider than 6 ft 6" (2 metres) i.e. lorries, coaches and heavy goods vehicles, will be restricted to the two nearside lanes. A traffic barrier will be provided in contraflow sections and works areas giving additional protection to motorists and the workforce and improving traffic flow through the works.

24-hour accident/emergency vehicle recovery service

BBSJV will operate a 24-hour CCTV camera surveillance throughout the works. Any incidents, including accidents and breakdowns, occurring within the road works, will be monitored and vehicles will be recovered as quickly as possible by our dedicated on site vehicle recovery service. Drivers and their passengers will be taken to a rest area, where they will be able to wait in safety and comfort whilst making arrangements for their onward journey.

Traffic Management on local side roads

In order to facilitate the motorway widening, a number of existing under- and over- bridges require widening or replacement. This work will result in temporary closures or diversions on the local road network, which will be managed efficiently to minimise disruption to local residents and businesses. Advance notifications will be used via the local press, letter drops and newsletters, as well as the local and parish councils.

Balfour Beatty Skanska Joint Venture will give advance notice of lane closures, via:

- newsletters,
- early warning signs,
- publicity in the local media; and
- Highways Agency website

It will also be necessary at times for restrictions on local side roads to enable works to be carried out. Details of these restrictions will be provided nearer the time.

Information will also be available as shown on the back page of this newsletter.

Driving safely through roadworks

Keep to the speed limit; it is there for your safety

Get into the correct lane in good time

Do not keep switching lanes

Concentrate on the road ahead, not the roadworks

Be alert for works traffic leaving or entering the roadworks

Keep a safe distance, there could be queues in front



M1 Junctions 6A-10 Widening News

Scheme history

The M1 6A - 10 widening scheme has developed over a number of years:

May 1989

First entered programme

August 1992

Public Consultation

September 1994

Publication of Draft Orders

Autumn 1995

Public Inquiry

October 1996

Secretary of State's decision following Public Inquiry

July 2003

Entered Programme of Improvements

December 2003

Orders Confirmed

February 2004

Local Exhibitions

March 2005

Contractors Appointed

November 2005

Start of Detailed Design/Advanced Work



Members of the Project Team

The Highways Agency – the Client, responsible to the Secretary of State for Transport, for maintaining, operating and improving the trunk road network



WSP – the Client's Supervising Agent responsible for monitoring the works on their behalf.



Balfour Beatty Skanska Joint Venture (BBSJV) – The main contractor responsible for ensuring that the project is designed and built according to the Client's requirements.

Balfour Beatty SKANSKA

Atkins – the Design Engineer, appointed by Balfour Beatty - Skanska Joint Venture as their designer for the project. Atkins is assisted by Gifford.



M1 Junctions 6A-10 Widening News

Please contact us with your comments and queries

We will make every effort to keep you fully informed about forthcoming construction and traffic management activities. We welcome your feedback on our performance and on our newsletters.

Our Community Relations Team will be available throughout the construction phase to answer any queries you may have about the project. They can be contacted as follows:

By post

Community Relations Team
Balfour Beatty Skanska Joint Venture
Maple Cross House
Denham Way
Maple Cross
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire WD3 9SW



By e-mail

community.relations@bbsjv.co.uk



By phone

M1 Project Community Helpline
Tel: 07815 882591



Online

[http:// www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/4478.aspx](http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/4478.aspx)



Contacting the Highways Agency

The Highways Agency Information Line (HAIL) is **08457 50 40 30**. This number is for motorists who require information.

For real time traffic information, call the Traffic England helpline on **08700 660 115**

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

Balfour Beatty Skanska Joint Venture is currently preparing detailed scheme specific information about the M1 widening project.

This will be posted on the Highways Agency website:

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/4478.aspx>

Publication code: HA 10/06 Further copies of this newsletter can be obtained free of charge by telephoning 01923 423951