

## M6 Improving the motorway Carlisle to Guards Mill

### Improving your journey

We are extending the M6 north of Carlisle to Guards Mill. This new 6 mile (10 km) section means there will be motorway all the way from London to Glasgow. This will improve safety, reduce congestion and make journeys more reliable.

Construction began in July 2006 and will be completed by December 2008 coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the first section of the M6 which bypassed Preston.

### What's happened so far?

The most obvious changes have been at the Esk bridge and Mossband Viaduct.

At the Esk Bridge we have completed the piers and supports. The first stage of the deck was pushed into position on the 16th May with the remaining second section to be moved early in June. This is a major milestone for the project.

At the Mossband Viaduct we have completed the foundations and walls and begun to lift the beams into place during a series of overnight closures of the railway. The beam placement started on the 20th May.

Sections along the All Purpose Route (APR) between Floriston and Metal Bridge and Mossband to Guards Mill have been surfaced and are being used by local traffic. Work on the remaining areas is progressing.

### What's happening next?

At the Esk bridge work will continue to make the bridge deck into the final road surface including lowering the deck into place and filling with concrete.

At Mossband the beams will continue to be lowered into place during overnight weekend closures of the West Coast Main Line over a period of 17 weeks.

Material will be placed to form the embankments approaching the new bridge. Work will continue for the offline widening of the current A74.

At the new VOSA (Vehicle and Operating Services Agency) site the existing land is being levelled to allow construction of the VOSA facility and the APR. This will entail the removal of around 200,000 tonnes of soil for the construction of embankments around the site.

### Protecting the environment

Great care has been taken to minimise the impact of the improved road on wildlife and the local environment. We have a team of environmental specialists on site to provide guidance and advice.

### Working safely

Our construction sites are well fenced and have signs that warn of the dangers. Please help us to work safely by noting all warnings and keeping children and pets away.

### Keeping journeys reliable

We always try to make sure that your journeys are as reliable as possible when we build new roads.

Although there will be 50mph speed limits and narrow lanes we will keep two lanes of traffic open in each direction during the day. We will be introducing average speed cameras in the near future to aid safety and help the traffic flow smoothly and minimise congestion.

Any lane closures that are needed will be done during the night and less busy periods.

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 2005, five workers were killed and 12 seriously injured in the course of their work on Highways Agency roads. This was the worst year since 1999.**

For the safety of all road users and roadworkers, drivers approaching roadworks are advised to:

- 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