

Major Improvements for the M1 and M62 in Yorkshire June 2006

£1.3 billion of work to improve the M1 and M62

The M1 and M62 are two of Britain's most important and busiest roads. As many as 140,000 vehicles used the motorways each day in 2005. That number is likely to grow by 2.6% a year - and if we do nothing congestion will get worse.

Without the improvements:

- Increased congestion
- Longer journey time
- Less reliability

Benefits of the improvements:

- Reduced congestion
- Improved driver information
- Better use of network
- Better management of traffic

The Government is planning to improve:

- 38.3 miles of the M1 between junction 30 (Chesterfield) and junction 42 (Leeds)
- 10.3 miles of the M62 between junction 25 (Huddersfield) and junction 28 (Leeds).

What we are proposing

The plan is to widen sections of the M1 and M62 to four lanes each way. We will do this within land already used for the motorway, wherever possible.

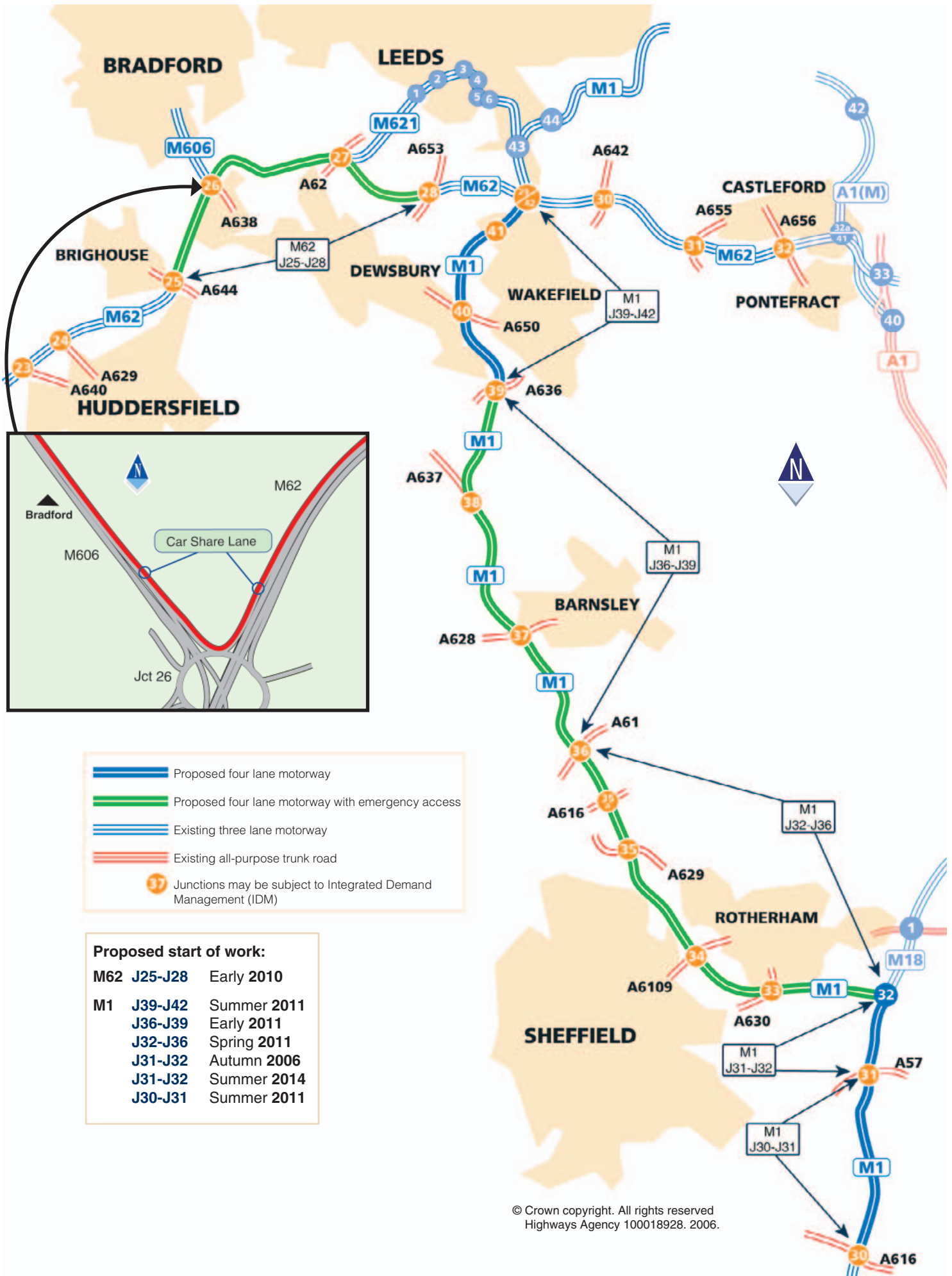
An additional lane will be added to the M1 in both directions between junctions 30 – 32 and 39 – 42. Construction of the additional lane between junctions 31 – 32 is due to start in Autumn 2006. Work on junctions 39 – 42 is not due to start until 2011.

A new four lane layout with emergency access will be introduced on the M1 between junctions 32 – 39, and on the M62 between junctions 25 – 28. On these sections, it is proposed to add an extra lane in each direction by removing the need for a hard shoulder.

This means that:

- the lanes will be slightly narrower than usual
- there will be no hard shoulder. Instead there will be regular emergency refuge areas where drivers can stop in an emergency. There will also be an access strip for emergency vehicles to enable them to reach incidents.

The Highways Agency's Regional Control Centre will keep a watch on the new sections by using CCTV cameras. On these sections, there will be electronic signs over the road that can show changing speed limits to help manage the flow of traffic. The electronic signs can be used to close lanes if there has been an accident or other emergency. Highways Agency Traffic Officers will be sent to deal with the problem or emergency.



Safety of road users and motorway workers is always our main concern. Safety issues will take priority as the design for this new layout develops.

The improvements will reduce congestion and increase safety. As a result, drivers will benefit from more reliable journeys, and Yorkshire can further develop its success as a region.

Making journeys more reliable

Providing a new fourth lane will ease existing congestion, but in order to maintain the improvements and get the most out of the system we also need to manage the flow of traffic on the motorway (Integrated Demand Management).

Measures include:

- A car share lane to be introduced as a trial between the M606 near Bradford and the M62.
- We will use signals on slip roads at some junctions to smooth the flow of traffic on the motorway.

We are also considering other measures such as variable speed limits and priority access for freight or buses.

Timeline:

- 2000 – 2003** The Government undertook an extensive study of the transport movements in South and West Yorkshire and recommended widening of the motorways (South and West Yorkshire Multi Modal Study).
- 2003 – 2005** The Highways Agency developed proposals and assessed their impact. The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly recommended the proposed improvement to the Minister for Transport.
- March 2005** The Minister announced that the M1 and M62 motorway improvement in Yorkshire would be included in the National Roads Programme and developed further.
- June 2006** Public information exhibitions in Barnsley, Sheffield, Cleckheaton, Huddersfield and Wakefield.
- Autumn 2006** An additional lane of the M1 in both directions between junctions 31 to 32 will be constructed. This scheme requires no additional land and an Environmental Statement has already been published.
- 2007 – 2008** Draft Orders will be published showing the detailed proposals and Environmental Statement assessing the impact for the remainder of M1 and M62 schemes. A public exhibition at that time will explain the details further.
- 2008 – 09** Potential Public Inquiries into Draft Orders.
- 2010 – 2016** Phased construction of widening schemes.

Taking care of the environment

We share people's concerns about noise and air quality near motorways. The Highways Agency wants to minimise the environmental impact of the work on the M1 and M62. There are strict EU air quality guidelines and we will be working with local authorities, community groups and our own experts to reduce the effects of these works, in line with this guidance.

We are assessing the impact our proposals will have and designing measures to limit the effects. For example, one way of reducing noise is to build noise barriers in the design.

We are currently analysing local authority information on air quality near both motorways. We are also monitoring various sites near the motorways to provide additional air quality information. We will use a computer model to predict the flow, speed and type of traffic likely to use the motorways in the future. This information can then be used to calculate the effects of the motorway improvements.

How to contact us

Please get in touch if you have a specific enquiry or concern.

- email us at: M1M62yorkshire@highways.gsi.gov.uk
- write to: Team L1, Major Projects, 9 West, City House, New Station Street, Leeds LS1 4UR

Public Exhibitions

To learn more about the proposed improvements on the M1 and M62, please visit our exhibition at one of these venues:

16 June 10am - 8pm
17 June 10am - 5pm

Don Valley Stadium

Worksop Road
Sheffield S9 3TL

and also at

Barnsley Central Library

Shambles Street
Barnsley S70 2JF

23 June 10am - 8pm
24 June 10am - 5pm

St John the Evangelist Church

Church Street
Cleckheaton BD19 3RN

and also at

Galpharm Stadium

Stadium Way
Huddersfield HD1 6PG

30 June 10am - 8pm

Jubilee Hall

Five Lane Ends
Townley Road
Lupset
Wakefield
WF2 8NS

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 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