

Bramham to Wetherby | A1 Motorway Upgrade

Newsletter • No 3 April 2009



Welcome to issue 3 of the A1 Bramham to Wetherby Motorway upgrade. This £68m scheme involves the upgrade of 10km of the A1 to motorway standard. It will improve journey times, safety and reduce congestion.

At Wetherby, A1 traffic is currently running in contraflow on the new southbound carriageway in order to complete the construction of the new northbound carriageway.

When completed, the A1 will have 3 lanes and a hard shoulder in both directions around Wetherby eliminating the traffic flow restrictions of the previous dual 2 lane all purpose road.

Work began in May 2007 and is due for completion in Summer 2009. In this issue of the Newsletter, we are delighted to announce key milestones for the project, including a new A1 bridge crossing the River Wharfe and the opening of the final section of supporting Local Access Road around Wetherby.

Bridges

We have built a new bridge crossing the River Wharfe to carry the new southbound carriageway. The existing River Wharfe bridge is being upgraded with the two former bridge decks being joined together to act as one bridge which will carry the new northbound carriageway.

We have now demolished the former bridges over the A1 at Walton Road and Wetherby Grange and replaced them with new bridges. This section of the A1(M) now caters for high load vehicles and removes the need for lorries carrying abnormal loads to leave the A1 and use the local access roads around Wetherby. This will bring benefits to local residents in terms of safety and congestion.

New Local Access Roads (LARs)

As part of the upgrade, several slip roads to/from the A1 have been closed and removed. In total (we have built 12km of new LARs parallel to the A1 from Bramham crossroads in the south through to Sandbeck and Kirk Deighton to the North of Wetherby. These cater for local traffic movements and that traffic which is prohibited from using the motorway by providing access to the surrounding villages and town of Wetherby.





Environment

Extensive measures have been put in place to reduce the impact of road traffic. New noise barriers have been erected near Bramham and Wetherby.

In addition we have used special low noise tarmac surfacing on the new roads constructed which will significantly reduce the noise generated by the traffic. Extensive shrub planting of laurels and other flower varieties has been carried out to enhance the environment throughout the scheme.

Remaining Works

The scheme is due to be completed by the end of July 2009 apart from minor finishing works and landscaping.

Thanks

We would like to thank all the residents and travelling public affected by this scheme, for your continuing support, patience, and comments and hope that the benefits realised by the scheme will be of help to you in your future journeys.



The last section under construction between Wetherby Grange roundabout and Sandbeck Lane roundabout opened before the Easter Bank Holiday and allows access between the South and North of Wetherby and is expected to significantly reduce traffic congestion in the town centre.

Highways Agency project manager Alec Briggs said: "For the first time, local traffic is able to travel between the A64 in the south and Kirk Deighton in the north, without having to use the A1 or pass through Wetherby town centre.

"By segregating local traffic from long-distance traffic, the new road will contribute to safer and more reliable journeys for all road-users. We also hope it will significantly reduce traffic congestion in Wetherby town centre, by creating a bypass around the town.

In addition 12Km of Non Motorised User (NMU) routes have been built providing a new safe off road facility for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians. They provide a means of access to the surrounding areas and one can travel on these routes between Bramham Crossroads and Kirk Deighton without having to use any of the LAR network.

Who to contact

Matthew Dobbie

Community Relations Manager

Tel: 01937 583 241

Mobile: 0791 9390739

Got a question or a comment?

08457 50 40 30

email: ha_info@highways.gov.uk

24 hours a day 365 days a year

Live traffic information

08700 660 115

www.highways.gov.uk

24 hours a day 365 days a year

*Calls from landlines to 08457 and 08700 numbers can cost up to 8p per minute but are free from some landline providers; mobiles usually cost more. Please check costs with your service provider'

Safe driving at roadworks



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.

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



Directgov

Straight through to public services

www.direct.gov.uk