M1
Upgrade to smart motorway
Junctions 13 to 16
About smart motorways

Smart motorways are a technology driven approach to the use of our motorways, increasing capacity and relieving congestion while maintaining safety. Smart motorways help make journey times more reliable.

Public information exhibitions

You can find out more about the plans for junctions 13 to 16 at these exhibitions. Highways England and design and construction consultants will be available to discuss the scheme and answer your questions.

Exhibition venues

Holiday Inn
Milton Keynes Central,
500 Saxon Gate,
Milton Keynes,
MK9 2HQ

- Friday 29 September, 2pm – 8pm

Brogborough Village Hall,
Ridgeway Road,
Brogborough,
Bedford,
MK43 0YA

- Saturday 30 September, 11am – 3pm

Collingtree Village Room,
High Street,
Collingtree,
Northamptonshire,
NN4 0ND

- Saturday 7 October, 11am – 3pm

It is important for drivers to understand the different types of technology and features used on smart motorways.

Junctions 13 to 16

We are improving the busy 37.9 km (23.6 miles) stretch of the M1 between Junction 13, just south of Milton Keynes and Junction 16 near Northampton by upgrading it to an ‘all lane running’ (ALR) smart motorway.

Advance works are scheduled to begin in January 2018 with work on the main scheme starting in spring 2018. It will be open early in 2021.

This means there will be:

- An additional lane for traffic increasing capacity to reduce congestion.
- More technology on the road to manage incidents.
- More reliable journeys.
What smart motorways include

Emergency roadside telephones
- There will be an emergency telephone in each emergency area.
- This will connect you to Highways England’s Regional Control Centres and will pinpoint your location.

Emergency areas
ERAs provide an area of relative safety following a breakdown. There will be 38 new ERAs on this scheme. Motorway Service Areas and hard shoulders on slip roads can also be used. At 60mph ERAs are every 75 seconds apart on average.

Variable mandatory speed limits
- Speed limits will be set to smooth traffic flows.
- The limits will be clearly displayed on overhead gantries and roadside signs.
- Signs will be used to inform drivers of conditions on the network and when variable speed limits are in place.

All lane running
The hard shoulder will be permanently converted into a traffic lane on most sections of the motorway. Drivers should obey all signs, including speed limits and lane closure instructions and should not stop on the motorway except in an emergency.

Congestion monitoring technology
We will use technology to detect and monitor congestion on the motorway and will set appropriate speed limits to manage incidents and smooth traffic flows, making journey times more reliable.
Where will this section of smart motorway be?

The map shows where the new section of smart motorway will be.

All lane running
This scheme will have no hard shoulder between junctions 13 and 16. There will be four lanes permanently open for use by road users. Emergency Areas (EAs) will be available.

Emergency areas
There will be 38 new EAs within the M1 junction 13 to 16 smart motorway scheme. Motorway Service Areas and hard shoulders on slip roads can also be used. The EAs are positioned approximately where shown with this symbol.

Exhibition venue locations
Our exhibitions are being held in Collingtree, Milton Keynes and Brogborough.

Safety, red □ sign and incidents

You will see red □ symbols on a gantry sign over the motorway or at the side of the motorway:

- We use a red □ symbol to show that a lane is closed because of an incident or people working on the road.
- Red □ also provide access for emergency services.
- Driving in a lane with a red □ symbol is dangerous and drivers must not use it.

Incident management is controlled by teams in our control centres:

- Incidents will be detected by traffic sensors, CCTV or calls from the public.
- The control centre will set signs to protect incidents and clear an access route for emergency vehicles.
- Control centre staff will monitor traffic conditions throughout each incident, ensure signs are set to manage traffic, and will reopen lanes as soon as it is safe to do so.
What to do if you break down

If you need to stop in an emergency on a smart motorway:

- Use an emergency area, motorway service area or leave at the next junction. If that is not possible, try to get your vehicle off the carriageway, if it is safe to do so.

If you have to stop in a live lane:

- Put your hazard warning lights on to help other drivers see you and help our control room staff spot you on CCTV.
- If you are in the left hand lane and it is safe to do so, exit the vehicle via the left hand door. Wait behind the barrier if possible.
- If you cannot exit the vehicle, do not feel it is safe to do so or there is no other place of relative safety, remain in the vehicle. Keep your seat belt on and dial 999.

Our contact details

We have several ways you can contact us to discuss the M1 junctions 13 to 16 smart motorway scheme.

Phone:
0300 123 5000

Email:
M1J13-16Smart@highwaysengland.co.uk

Mailing Address:
M1 J13 to 16 Project Team
Highways England
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Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 2PW

Website:
http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/m1-junction-13-to-junction-16-smart-motorway/
Space for your notes