

M56 motorway upgrade junctions 6 to 8 newsletter

summer 2021



Progress update

Welcome to the third edition of the M56 junctions 6 to 8 newsletter. Since our last issue, we've been working hard to complete our construction work on the eastbound carriageway. This includes:

- ground excavations, installing the foundations and building the bases for the new overhead signs and structures
- building the walls for the new Emergency Areas
- surveys to check the existing drainage and installing new drainage
- carriageway surface repairs

Over the past few months we've refurbished the barrier on Wilmslow Bridge and Cow Lane overbridge, on the eastbound side of the motorway. We'll finish the refurbishment work to these bridges when we switch our work onto the westbound carriageway.

We've also been installing some network access steps and paths along the route of the eastbound verge. These paths will help colleagues safely access the motorway to carry out maintenance work in the future.

What's next?

Over the next few weeks, we'll be carrying out more construction activities to complete our work on the eastbound carriageway. This work includes:

- earthwork to finish off the embankments
- installing safety barriers
- finish building the technology sites
- completing our work on the network access paths



Resurfacing work on the eastbound carriageway

In July we started work to convert the hard shoulder on the eastbound carriageway into a permanent running lane. We've now completed the resurfacing works ahead of our traffic management switch onto the westbound carriageway.

Work switching onto the westbound carriageway

As we approach the final stages of work on the eastbound carriageway, we'll shortly be moving our construction activity to the westbound carriageway. We're aiming to start this phase in October 2021. We will update the scheme webpage once the dates for the traffic management has been confirmed.

If you would like to receive our weekly traffic management bulletin, please get in touch with us via the contact details at the back of this newsletter. For the most up to date traffic information please visit www.trafficengland.com

Preparation work on the westbound carriageway

We plan to carry out some preparation work on the westbound carriageway, where we'll clear

overhanging branches to make sure all signs and cameras are clear from obstruction. We will also remove some small bushes, shrubs and trees along the length of the scheme.

To do this safely, we need to close the M56 westbound between junctions 6 and 8. The closures will be in place from 13 to 24 September 2021, between 9pm and 6am. All diversion routes will be clearly signed. Throughout the project, we've kept vegetation clearance to a minimum to preserve as much of the highway verge screening and local ecology as possible.

Once the project is complete, we plan to replace as much vegetation as we can at locations where it's possible to do so. We've received additional funding to enhance the planting with evergreen trees and shrubs to improve year-round screening of the motorway.

New scheme completion date

The completion date for the project has changed from March 2022 to September 2022. This is to ensure Stopped Vehicle Detection (SVD) technology is installed before the scheme opens to traffic. SVD technology is an extra safety measure on motorways without a hard shoulder. It can detect vehicles stopped in a live lane in a matter of seconds, helping to close lanes and provide assistance sooner.

The additional commitments are outlined in the **All Lane Running One Year progress report** published earlier this year.

Community

Supporting our local community

We've been working closely with the Children's Adventure Farm Trust (CAFT), and donated £1000 worth of materials to the trust. Ian Eccles, CEO for CAFT said 'Big thanks for the pallets, fence posts and fencing wire we collected this morning, and thanks to the guys on site for their help'. The project team also plan to volunteer time at the trust to build a compound for their equipment in the autumn.



Meet the team

**National Highways
Project Manager,
Clare Bond**

Clare Bond is the
National Highways

Project Manager for the M56 motorway upgrade project, and has been working on the project since 2017. It is a busy role which involves a lot of engagement with various stakeholders, ensuring the project continues to progress and key milestones are achieved.

Art competition

We launched an art competition to design a mascot to feature in our scheme newsletters. Invitations were sent to schools near to the project to enter the competition. We received lots of lovely pictures and choosing the winner was not an easy task. The overall winner of our competition was a year 1 pupil from Elmridge Primary school. They named the mascot 'Builder Man'. They were delighted to receive their reward, and said they were 'going to spend it all on Lego'. Well done!



The safety of the delivery team and road users is of utmost importance. It's also key when planning roadworks, the potential impact on customers is taken into consideration, to reduce the impacts of the project on both the local community and motorists.

Clare says 'It's great to see the project progressing through the construction phase, and to see the results of all the hard work that has taken place coming to fruition with the eastbound verge works nearing completion'.

Want to ask Clare a question about the project? Please email the scheme inbox at **M56J6-8smartmotorway@highwaysengland.co.uk**.

M6 junction 19 - new opening date planned for November 2021

The new link bridge, which is being built as part of the M6 improvement scheme is expected to be open for traffic in November 2021. To minimise impact on our customers, we'll be carrying out most of our remaining work during overnight closures of the M6 junction 19 roundabout and the M56 junction 7 westbound exit. We'll need to close the roundabout for one whole weekend from Friday 17 September for final surfacing work. If you have any queries relating to these closures, please email: M6Junction19Improvement@highwaysengland.co.uk

Virtual sessions with the project team

Lockdown restrictions may have lifted, but we're still taking measures to keep you and our staff safe. We'll continue to offer virtual appointments to provide you with the opportunity to discuss any queries that you may have with us about the project or our construction work. If you'd like to book an appointment with the project team, please get in touch with us via the details provided below.

We want your feedback!

Have you recently driven through our roadworks? Do you live nearby? If so, we want to hear about your experiences of driving through or living near our work. Head to our webpage and use the M56 junctions 6 to 8 smart motorway feedback tool. Just click on the map to add your comments.

The tool allows you to select a specific location to make a comment or leave more general feedback. Where possible, we'll use this feedback to identify areas where we can improve how we deliver this scheme. If you need a response back from the project team, please contact us on the details at the end of this newsletter.



Contact us:

If you'd like any more information about the scheme, please visit our project webpage at: highwaysengland.co.uk/M56-J6-8

If you have any questions, or would like to receive our weekly traffic management bulletin, please contact us on the details below:

Email: M56Junctions6-8@Gallifordtry.co.uk

Phone: 0300 123 500 (Customer Contact Centre)

Post: **M56 junctions 6 to 8 Project Team, National Highways,
2 Colmore Square, Birmingham, B4 6BN**

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