Welcome to the October edition of Highways England Coast Road junction improvement scheme newsletter for local residents, businesses and road users.

Like you, every road user wants less congested roads to enable swift, safe, comfortable and informed travel. On behalf of the government and its Road Investment Strategy (RIS), Highways England is responsible for delivering the largest investment in a generation throughout England’s motorways and major A roads and the A19 / A1058 Coast Road junction is a key part of this investment.

Since Highways England was established in 2015 we have made good progress in delivering the governments RIS and we remain focused on our three imperatives to support this work. The first of these is to make journeys safer for both our customers and our workforce. The second is to improve the network to minimise delays and congestion to provide our customers with the best possible experience. Our final priority is to deliver our work in an efficient and effective way that provides value for money and minimises disruption, as well as mitigating the impact on communities.

Historically the A19 / A1058 Coast Road junction suffers peak time congestion with delays of over 2 minutes 23 seconds per vehicle on the A19 southbound approach and the incident rate at this junction is above than the national average (2008-2012) therefore justifying the need for improvement.

As part of our commitment to improving England’s motorways and major A roads the A19 / A1058 Coast Road junction improvement scheme acknowledges our three imperatives and once complete aims to:

- Reduce congestion
- Increase capacity
- Improve journey times
- Improve road safety for both road users and the local community
- Support regeneration in Tyne and Wear and Northumberland
- Maintain or improve facilities for pedestrians, horse riders, disabled users and cyclists crossing and travelling along the route

Site update

Over the past year we have completed:

- Diversions onto temporary roundabout alignment to allow bridge construction
- Phase one piling works to bridge supports on A19 North, A19 South and A1058 Eastbound carriageways
- Bridge beams installed onto North and South roundabout bridges.
- Traffic switch to allow earthworks and drainage to be undertaken in verges
- Bridge beams installed on A1058 Eastbound carriageway
- Sheet piled retaining walls to Northbound on slip road
- Major statutory services diverted
**Ongoing works**

**Silverlink roundabout**
Construction of the A19 North, A19 South and A1058 Eastbound bridges are well underway with piling works and capping beams completed and pre-cast concrete bridge beams in place to allow construction of the in situ concrete deck structures to take place.

We have completed the trenches on the roundabout for the new traffic light systems cabling and are currently in the process of re-directing the gas mains pipes.

**Middle Engine Bridge**
Corrugated steel tube which forms the new underpass is now in place and we are in the process of filling in voids between the old and new structures on both sides of the bridge. Improvements to the walkways and footpaths will benefit cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians and is due to reopen during the summer of 2018.

**Cycle ways and pedestrian routes**
We are continuing to maintain safe access for all users of cycle ways and pedestrian routes by providing safe diversions, signage and regular maintenance to the pathways.

**What’s next?**
- Complete the construction of A19 North, A19 South and A1058 Eastbound bridges: December 2017
- Divert traffic onto the new bridges: North, October 2017 and South, December 2017
- Traffic placed into contraflow on the Eastbound carriageway to allow Westbound bridge works to commence: November 2017
- Complete phase two piling operations for the North and South Ramps commence main thorough excavation: January 2018

**Helping the environment**
To date the scheme has exported over 143,000 tonnes of material from site including excavated soils, demolished concrete and general waste. Over 141,000 tonnes of this total volume (98%) has been diverted from landfill and recycled in some form.

Over 2700 tonnes of coal tar has been identified within the existing road pavement and needs to be excavated to enable the construction of the new road alignment. To alleviate environmental issues with the removal and disposal of this material, we have liaised with the Environment Agency to determine a suitable pavement design solution. This enables the 2700 tonnes of asphalt containing coal tar to be re-used safely within the new pavement construction.

**State of the art water filtration system**
In partnership with the Environment Agency, we are utilising a state of the art water filtration system that allows the separation of road sweeper waste and contaminated waste for off-site removal leaving clean water which can then be disposed of in the existing drainage system.

**School activities**
As part of promoting health and safety to young people, Highways England went back to school recently to raise awareness of the dangers that construction sites present.

Along with its delivery partner Sisk Lagan Joint Venture, Highways England delivered various presentations to over 900 pupils from Stephenson Memorial Primary and Hadrian Park Primary Schools.

Not a Playing Area: highlighted hazards and risks posed to young people on construction sites that can involve serious accidents.

**Public awareness events**
Members of the public recently joined us at two public awareness events that we held in July. Events were held at B&Q and Silverlink Shopping Centre that resulted in members of public receiving an update on the scheme progress and what benefits the scheme will bring to road users once finished. Overall feedback for both events was very positive and Highways England will host further events in the New Year and staff will be on hand to answer any questions or queries people may have.

**Visits**
Highways England Director David Haines (right) and Sisk Lagan Joint Venture Project Manager James Kehgh (left) showing Jesse Norman MP (centre) the progress on the Silverlink junction

**Jesse Norman, the Under Secretary of State for Transport visit**
Under Secretary of State for Transport Jesse Norman visited the A19 / A1058 Coast Road site to celebrate 12 months of construction. Impressed with the overall delivery to date, Jesse was shown around the site and updated by Highways England and Sisk Lagan Joint Venture on the proposed improvements and benefits the scheme brings to the local area.

**Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)**
In August volunteers from the RNIB visited our Project Team and walked the public footpaths providing feedback from a visually impaired perspective. This was an invaluable activity and showed us where improvements need to be made for users with visual and physical disabilities.

**Smile for life – Jonathan Gibbons from Sisk Lagan Joint Venture recently took part in the Great North Run and raised over £500 for Smile for Life who support children with disabilities. Well done Jonathan.**

As part of its commitment to social responsibility, the A19 / A1058 project team recently met with the Stephenson Railway Museum about donating some anti-climb fencing that was previously used on the central reservation. Stephenson Railway Museum’s own fencing was destroyed by anti-social behaviour not so long ago so the donation has come at a good time. In return, the museum has offered Highways England tickets to meet Santa Claus at the Santa Claus Express. Local schools will soon be contacted with further information about how pupils can enter a competition to win tickets to meet Santa.

**Abnormal loads**
An unusually large load of over 80 meters long and 223 tonnes came through the A19 / A1058 Coast Road scheme overnight on the 15 August. This nationally significant load consisted of a transformer for a substation in Oldbury. Starting its road journey at Blaydon and making its way up the A1 onto the A19 to travel to Wallsend it then continued its journey by sea from Swan Hunter Shipyard. This was successfully moved through our works without incident.
Awards

Congratulations. The A19 / A1058 Coast Road project team recently picked up the ‘Best use of Building Information Modelling (BIM) for Construction Sequencing’ Award at the BIM4SME Awards held aboard HMS Belfast in London on 12 September. Well done to all those involved.

BIM uses 3D models of buildings and construction schemes, to support the design process, allowing better analysis and control than other manual processes. This process provides the ability to efficiently plan, design, construct, and manage buildings and infrastructure.

Keeping you up to date

Online:
Up to date information will be posted on our scheme web page as it becomes available, at: www.highways.gov.uk/A19-A1058CoastRoadJunction

Email alerts:
You can sign up to receive email alerts as they are made via our web page at: www.highways.gov.uk/A19-A1058CoastRoadJunction
Alternatively, you can contact the project team direct at: A19coastroadenquiries@highwaysengland.co.uk

You can write to us at:
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