

**Welcome** to our second newsletter for the A5-M1 Link (Dunstable Northern Bypass). It has the latest news to keep you up-to-date with the scheme's progress and forthcoming activities.

### Scheme overview

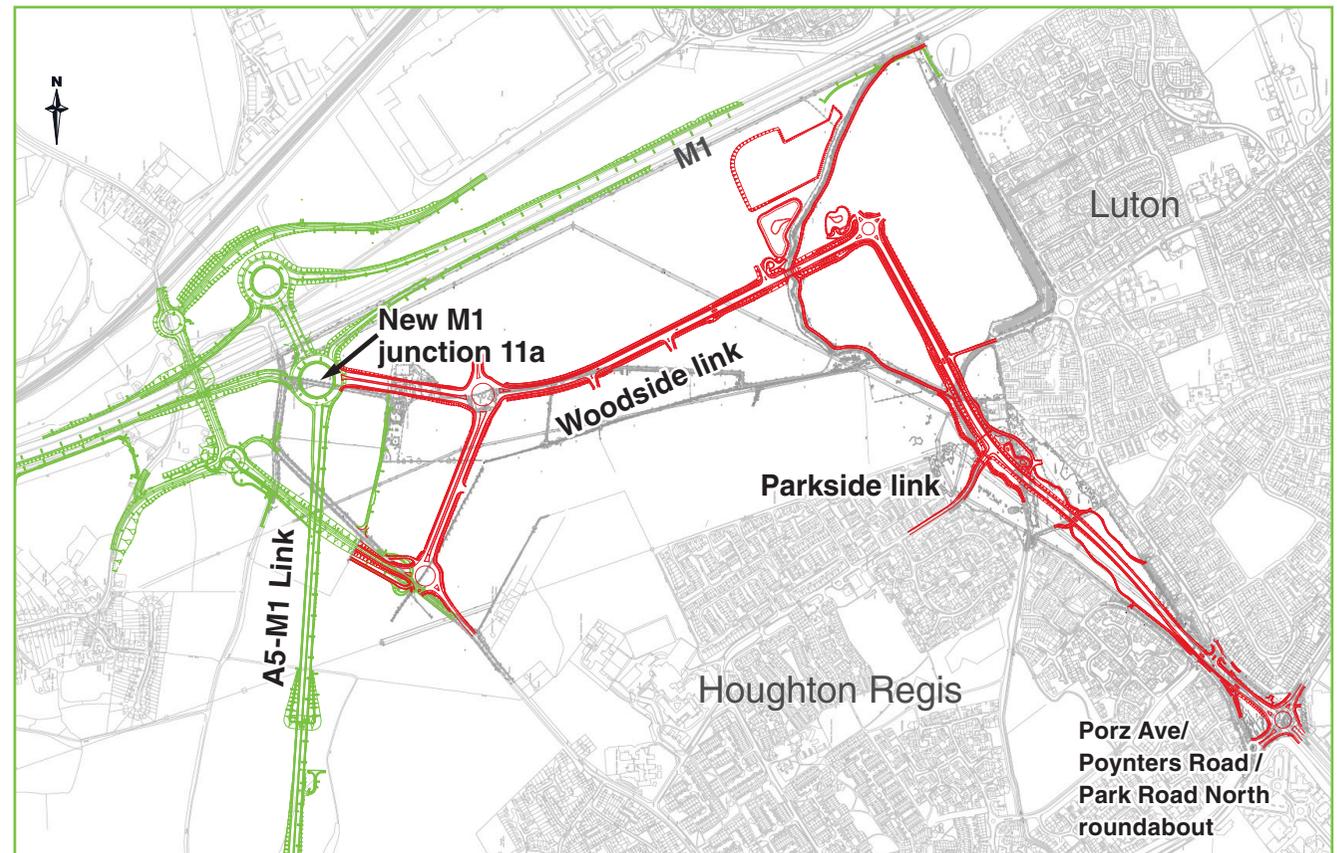
We are building a new dual carriageway between the A5 and M1 to help relieve congestion and improve connections between local villages and communities.

Our scheme will also improve road safety and bring economic benefits to the region, unlocking the development of 7,000 houses and 40 hectares of employment land, potentially providing 4,000 jobs in the Houghton Regis area.

The scheme includes a new roundabout at the intersection with the A5120 Bedford Road and the road will join the M1 at new junction 11a.

The road will also join the new Woodside Link road, that Central Bedfordshire Council are building as part of the Dunstable Town Centre Masterplan, and provide access to a new development area north of Houghton Regis.

Highways England is working in a joint venture between Carillion and Costain to deliver this scheme.



## Construction update

We have recently entered the next phase of the scheme and now fifteen months on, the bulk of the work is reaching completion. Work on the new link is progressing through the cut section in the hillside area connecting the A5, A5120 and Sundon Road.

The embankments for the five bridges (Sundon Road overbridge, Footpath 23 overbridge, Grove Farm Bridge, Icknield Way footbridge, and Thorn Farm overbridge on the link) are nearing completion with footpaths and

access tracks underway. Works are progressing well. We have already surfaced 65% of the carriageway on the link road and built the A5 and A5120 roundabouts.

Drivers are now able to use the new roundabout on the A5120 between Toddington and Houghton Regis.

Five out of the seven bridges on the scheme had their steel beams installed which include the two largest bridges going over the M1. Steel beams were successfully erected at night in March and April for the 2 bridges on the M1. Work will continue on the structures with further construction and utility

diversions. The installation of the bridge beams involved the following:

**Junction 11a bridge 6 (widest bridge)** - We have successfully lifted 20 beams in 10 joined pairs into place over the M1.

**B579 Luton Road bridge 7 (longest bridge)** - We have successfully lifted 18 beams made up of 9 braced pairs.

We have started planting and seeding our landscape areas. Street furniture including signage and lighting columns are also being installed on site. Watch us putting the beams in place on our YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEVlgN6ibRU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEVlgN6ibRU)

## Next phase of works planned:

We will:

- Complete installation of road surface for both carriageways of the link from A5.
- Complete the roundabouts that form part of the new junction on the western side of the carriage.
- Complete works and open the new A5 roundabout traffic between Hockliffe and the A505 roundabout.
- Open bridge 7 (Luton Road B579) to traffic by end September 2016.
- Demolish two existing bridges on M1, old B579 bridge and Houghton Road Bridge by end of September 2016.
- Replace the central reservation barrier on M1.
- Switch traffic from running on lanes 2, 3 and 4 to run on lanes 1, 2 and 3 on the M1 so we can work on the centre reserve where the old bridge piers were.
- Install footbridges over the new link road.
- Open the new Sundon Road overbridge to traffic in August.

### Installation of bridge beam lifts



### Lifting of bridge beams



## Traffic management

### On the M1

There is still temporary traffic management in place on both carriageways. This includes a 50mph speed limit enforced by average speed cameras and 24 hour free vehicle recovery within the works. Overnight lane closures on the M1 will continue whilst works progress.

Full carriageway closures on the M1 are planned for 10 and 24 September 2016 from 8pm Saturday to 2pm Sunday, to allow for the demolition of the existing bridges over the M1.

### M1 northbound traffic

- Will be diverted off at Junction 9 and will follow the diversion route via the A5 to re-join the M1 at junction 14.
- Traffic to Luton airport junction 10 and Luton junction 11 will be able to continue these destinations. The M1 will be closed at junction 11.

### M1 southbound traffic

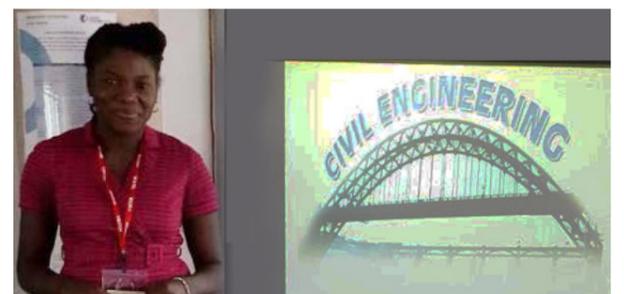
- Traffic will be encouraged to leave at junction 13 and carriageway closed at junction 12, to follow the diversion route via the A5 to re-join the M1 at junction 9.
- Traffic will be able to get to junction 13 and 12. The M1 will be closed from junction 12.
- Traffic exiting at junction 12 will use the diversion route via Toddington A5120, through Houghton Regis, to join Park Road North, onto Poynters Road and re-join A505 to junction 11 of the M1.

### A5 and local roads

- We will continue to put daytime traffic lights across the scheme to allow works to progress safely.
- We will need to close local roads overnight and will warn drivers in advance of any disruption. Watch out for announcements on our website and the Woodside link Facebook page. We will also be informing local parish councils and writing to residents. All closures will be signed in advance with a clearly marked diversion route.

## Science, technology, engineering and math education (STEM) ambassadors

The A5-M1 project team have registered three STEM ambassadors to promote the construction sector and to inspire others to consider a career in the industry. Our ambassadors participate in a range of engagement activities with schools and colleges in the local area.



Assistant Project Manager Esosa Ikolo from Highways England joined other professionals across the business in raising the profile of civil engineering by educating and encouraging students to become future civil engineers. Esosa spoke to sixth form students at Joseph Chamberlain College, Birmingham about her career as a civil engineer and the benefits of studying civil engineering. She also enlightened the students about the various career route options, skills and qualification they need to study civil engineering - these include good grades in at least two STEM subjects.

Find out more on our apprenticeship scheme at: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england/about/recruitment](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england/about/recruitment)

## Awards

We have won a gold medal at the 2016 RoSPA Health and Safety Awards. The award recognises sites that have achieved a very high level of performance, demonstrating well developed occupational health and safety management systems and culture, outstanding control of risk and very low levels of error, harm and loss.



## Community engagement

### Dunstable in Bloom :

The A5-M1 project team have donated 20 wheelbarrows to Dunstable in Bloom. This is a yearly event which aims to encourage the local community to improve their local environment. This year's theme was transport.



### Toddington allotment:

Earlier this year, our site team gave the Toddington community allotment car park a facelift. Severe potholes had made the car park almost impossible to access. Now, after the team's work, the surface is smooth, sturdy and fit for the future.



Toddington car park - before pothole repairs



Toddington car park - with new facelift

## Our environment and wild life

**Hydroseeding** - At present we are hydroseeding (which is a grass seed mixed with mulch which is fired through a hose). Hydroseeding will add seeds to the vast area of ditches, banks, bunds and landscape within and around the scheme area. At present we have seeded an area of 85,000m<sup>2</sup> and once the scheme is completed we will have hydroseeded over 240,000m<sup>2</sup> of new grassland.

**Balancing ponds** - There are seven ponds across the scheme which are being lined and top-soiled; these ponds will be planted with native aquatic and marginal plants which will add to the habitat creation provided by the scheme.

### Want to know more?

Visit our website [www.highways.gov.uk/a5m1link](http://www.highways.gov.uk/a5m1link)

Send us an email

**M1-A5Link\_DunstableNorthernBypass @highwaysengland.co.uk**

Give us a call **0300 123 5000**

© Crown copyright and database rights 2016 OS 100030649 2016.

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence:

Visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/)

Write to the **Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU**,  
Or email [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This document is also available on our website at [www.highways.gov.uk](http://www.highways.gov.uk)

Please quote the Highways England publications code PR130/15

Highways England Creative job number **S160248**

\*Calls to 03 numbers cost no more than a national rate call to an 01 or 02 number and must count towards any inclusive minutes in the same way as 01 and 02 calls.

These rules apply to calls from any type of line including mobile, BT, other fixed line or payphone. Calls may be recorded or monitored.

Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ Highways England Company Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363

Printed on paper from well-managed forests and other controlled sources.