Welcome to the first newsletter about the project to improve the M3 between Junction 2 and 4a.

In the November 2011 autumn statement, the Chancellor announced that the M3 Junction 2 to 4a would be upgraded to a smart motorway as one of six growth schemes which would be prepared for construction before 2015.

What has been done so far:

- edge hardening works along the hard shoulder in readiness for running traffic
- vegetation clearance following ecological surveys
- installation of average speed cameras, CCTV cameras
- setting up free recovery bases
- trial holes for locating existing services
- installation of traffic management including contra flow on the eastbound carriageway
- installation of three narrow lanes on which to run traffic
- implementation of 50mph through the works

The main construction works are being delivered by Balfour Beatty and commenced in January 2015 for 26 months.

Throughout the construction period we will ensure the safety of the public and workforce; minimise the impact of work on the local communities; minimise delays to road users and do all we can to protect the local environment.

The Highways Agency and Balfour Beatty are committed to keeping local residents and businesses fully informed as the project progresses.
Members of the Project Team

An executive Agency of the Department for Transport.

Balfour Beatty

The contractor responsible for ensuring the project is built in accordance with the Client’s requirements

URS

Client’s Agent on site and Design Engineer for the project appointed by the Highways Agency as.

Improvements to the M3

Why the work is needed

The M3 Junction 2 to 4a is part of a major strategic road network connecting people, communities and businesses, carrying over 130,000 vehicles per day.

We are improving this road as it currently suffers from high levels of congestion and unpredictable journey times.

This scheme will relieve congestion and smooth the flow of traffic making journeys more reliable. These benefits will support economic development in the region by providing much needed capacity on the motorway.

What we are doing

We will improve the M3 between Junction 2 (Thorpe) and 4a (Farnborough) by making it a smart motorway.

Smart motorways relieve congestion by using technology to vary speed limits. The hard shoulder will be permanently converted to a running lane to create additional capacity. Smart motorways deliver these benefits at a significantly lower cost than conventional motorway widening and with less impact on the environment during construction.

New widespan gantries will be erected along with smaller, verge mounted message signs. CCTV cameras will be installed to monitor the carriageway, allowing the Regional Control Centre in Godstone to monitor traffic flows and detect incidents. We will close lanes in the event of incidents as and when needed to allow access to recovery and emergency service vehicles.
Traffic Management
We operate 24 hours, 7 days a week CCTV cameras throughout the works. Any incidents, accidents or breakdowns occurring within the roadworks are monitored and vehicles are recovered free of charge as quickly as possible by our dedicated on-site vehicle recovery service. Drivers and their passengers are taken to our customer care centre where they can wait in safety and comfort whilst making arrangements for their onward journey.

we will:
● maintain three lanes of traffic both west and eastbound
● limit full closures to the minimum
● manage full closures to avoid local events

In order to carry out the construction works safely, a speed limit of 50mph will be in place throughout the works. This is for the safety of the public and workforce and will be monitored by a speed enforcement camera system.

This project team will work hard to reduce the impact on motorists, local residents and businesses. We will advise local residents and businesses in advance of any planned changes and road closures and respond in a timely manner to all concerns.

you can help by:
● driving safely through roadworks
● keeping to the speed limit, it is there for everyone's safety
● getting into the correct lane in good time
● not switching lanes
● concentrating on the road ahead, not the roadworks
● keeping a safe distance from the vehicle in front

Timings
● mobilisation works August – November 2014
● main construction works – November 2014– Dec 2016

Environment
We are committed to ensuring that, wherever possible, we protect the environment. We carry out ecological and archaeological works and an environmental impact on local residents.

Progress to date:
Ecology and Archaeology: surveys along the side of the carriageway through the length of the works. Vegetation clearance ongoing.

Drainage: works carried out prior to running traffic on hard shoulder and lane 1 and 2. Manholes filled along the hard shoulder. CCTV, average speed cameras installed.

Completed advance works including drainage: road surfacing in preparation for running three lanes, removal of old centre reservation barrier.

During November we took down two single span gantries on the eastbound carriageway in the area of Junction 2 and one gantry spanning across the main carriageway and the link road to the M25.
Community Relations

This project has a dedicated Community Relations Team, which is working with local stakeholders. We pride ourselves on engaging with the local communities to keep everyone fully informed on our works. We regularly arrange visits and presentations about the works and our commitment to protect the environment.

We will keep you informed by:
- issuing regular newsletters
- writing to local residents and businesses about works or possible disruption

So far the project team has raised:
- £220 through the sale of coffee and cake and £475 from the sale of tickets to a Christmas event for Macmillan
- £202 Christmas Jumper event for Save the Children
- Donated £200 to Community Matters Partnership Project for the Grand Draw January 2015
- Team collection for donation of food to the Farnborough Food Bank

We have also joined other local businesses and organisations by becoming a partner of the Community Matters Partnership Project to work in the community.

Whilst in the area we will work with local schools, presentations have already been made and some students have joined us for a week’s work experience.

Considerate Constructors

This project is registered with the Considerate Constructors Scheme, a scheme designed to encourage best practice and create a more positive image of the construction industry. We pride ourselves on meeting key criteria, which include working safely and considerately and being a good neighbour.

We will keep you informed by:
- issuing regular newsletters
- writing to local residents and businesses about works or possible disruption
- publicity in the local media

Contact Us

@ communityrelationsm3j2-4a@balfourbeatty.com

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http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/M3-Junctions-2-4a

Contacting the HA

The Highways Agency Information Line (HAIL) is 0300 123 5000

Ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk

www.highways.gov.uk/trafficinfo
24 hours a day, 365 days a year

@highways_agency or for the full index visit http://www.highways.gov.uk/twitter

Safety at roadworks

The Highways Agency is working with the industry and road users to reduce the risks of working on the roads.

For the safety of roadworkers and all road users, 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.