M6
Proposed smart motorway
Junctions 2 to 4
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 2 to 4 at these exhibitions. Highways England and design and construction consultants will be available to discuss the scheme and answer your questions.

Exhibition venues

**Novotel M6 Junction 3**
Wilson Lane
Coventry
CV6 6HL

- Thursday July 7th
  2pm – 8pm
- Friday July 8th
  10am – 8pm
- Saturday July 9th
  10am – 4pm

**Chelmsley Wood Town Council**
107 Helmswood Drive
Birmingham
B37 7NS

- Thursday July 14th
  10am – 8pm
- Friday July 15th
  10am – 8pm

It is important for drivers to understand the different types of technology and features used on smart motorways.
Where will this section of smart motorway be?

**Junctions 4 and 3a**
Between junctions 4 and 3a the motorway will have three lanes and a hard shoulder. This is designed to tie in with the existing M6 junctions 5 to 8 smart motorway.

**Converting the climbing lane**
The existing eastbound climbing lane between junctions 3a and 3 will be converted to a permanent traffic lane and the hard shoulder will be retained throughout this length.

**All lane running**
This scheme will have four lanes for most of this section of the motorway by converting the hard shoulder to a driving lane. Places where there will be a hard shoulder include at junctions 2 and 3.

**Improvements to Junction 4**
Junction 4 needs to be improved to accommodate the traffic that will be travelling to the proposed HS2 station Birmingham Interchange. The junction will be redesigned to have three and in places four lanes.

**Emergency refuge areas**
There will be nine emergency refuge areas positioned approximately where shown with this symbol 🏡.

This smart motorway will be built between Junction 4 at Coleshill and Junction 2 near Coventry. There are also plans to upgrade another section of the M6 to a smart motorway between junctions 13 and 15 near Stafford.
What smart motorways include

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

Emergency refuge areas
- There will be 9 emergency refuge areas. The average spacing between safe places of refuge will be 1.2 miles, meaning you will pass one approximately every 70 seconds.
- They provide an area of relative safety for those working on vehicles following a breakdown.

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.
Safety, red symbol and incidents

You will see red symbols on a gantry sign over the motorway or on a gantry sign 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 refuge 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’.

As soon as Highways England is alerted, our Regional Control Centre will close lanes to protect you and your vehicle until help arrives.
Our contact details

We have several ways you can contact us to discuss the M6 junctions 2 to 4 smart motorway scheme.

Phone:
0300 123 5000

Email:
M6.j2-4@highwaysengland.co.uk

Mailing Address:
M6 J2 - 4 smart motorway
Highways England
The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham
B1 1RN

Website:
http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/m6-junction-2-to-junction-4-smart-motorway/
If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

Visit us online at