Know your smart motorways
M60/M62, Greater Manchester
Manchester smart motorways: M60 junction 8 to M62 junction 20

The M60 and M62 are vital parts of the strategic road network in England. They provide an important link for people, communities and businesses across Greater Manchester and the North West.

We’re improving the M60 between junction 8 (Carrington Spur) and M62 junction 20 (Rochdale and Oldham) by turning it into a smart motorway.

This means introducing new road technologies which have been tried and tested in other parts of the country. Our work will relieve congestion and smooth the flow of traffic, making journey times more reliable for the 180,000 drivers who use the M60 and M62 every day. In turn this will support and improve economic growth.

This leaflet is designed to help you to understand how to drive on a smart motorway.
We are opening the smart motorway in phases between autumn 2017 and summer 2018, including testing the new signs and signals before it becomes fully operational.

Before Christmas 2017, we’re opening a new fourth lane on the M62 by converting the hard shoulder to an extra traffic lane on a five-mile stretch between junctions 18-20, near Rochdale. Junctions 8-18 of the M60 will remain a three-lane motorway with new signs and signals to help manage the flow of traffic, though there will be four lanes in sections.

Manchester smart motorways facts

- 50 CCTV cameras
- 262 gantry-mounted signals
- More than 1,000 lighting columns replaced
- More than 100 traffic detectors
- 91 electronic message signs
- 124 miles of new technology and power cables

We urge all drivers to know their smart motorways and find out about the different types of technology and features used to improve journeys.
Red X signs on a smart motorway - what you’ll see

A red X shows that a lane is closed and must not be used. This is so we can manage an incident or roadworks while creating a safer environment for road users and road workers:

- Driving in a lane with a red X sign is dangerous both to you and anyone working or stopped on the carriageway ahead.
- We sometimes need to set red X signs far in advance of an incident in order to provide access for emergency vehicles.
- Digital cameras can be used by the police to enforce the red X sign.

The red X can be displayed on signs above each lane or large signs on the verge of the carriageway. The illustrations to the right show a typical sequence of signs we use in order to safely manage incidents. Any of the lanes may be closed by a red X and arrows will show the next available lane.
Signs above each lane

60 mph speed limit signs displayed

Move to right hand lane arrow displayed
(this may be repeated)

Red X displayed in advance of incident

National speed limit applies after the incident

Never drive in a red X lane!
Know your smart motorways

Smart motorways use innovative technology to actively control traffic flows and improve your journey. By varying speed limits and converting the hard shoulder to a permanently running lane, we can help you to avoid frustrating stop-start traffic, helping you get to where you need to be on time.

**Variable mandatory speed limits**

Variable mandatory speed limits displayed in a red circle mean it is the law to follow the speed limit. They are a key feature of smart motorways and are used when traffic volumes increase. The monitoring sensors we use activate lower speed limits to smooth congestion and keep you moving.

**Contact us**

If you have any questions relating to the M60 junction 8 to M62 junction 20 smart motorway project, you can contact the Highways England Customer Contact Centre on: **0300 123 5000** (email: [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk))

Alternatively, you can visit our website at: [http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/m60-junction-8-to-m62-junction-20-2](http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/m60-junction-8-to-m62-junction-20-2)
What to do in a **breakdown**

We understand that breaking down on a motorway can be very distressing. In the event of a breakdown always switch on your hazard warning lights and do one of the following:

- **Always exit the motorway if possible...**
  - If your vehicle is still mobile, always try to exit the smart motorway immediately at the next junction, motorway service area or other place of relative safety.

- **If you can’t exit the motorway, move into an emergency area**
  - In some cases, a vehicle may not be able to leave the motorway before needing to stop. In these circumstances, make your way to the nearest emergency area if possible. These are marked with blue signs featuring an emergency area pictogram with an SOS telephone symbol within the bay.
  - If you can leave your vehicle safely, contact Highways England via the roadside emergency telephone provided in all emergency areas. We will either send a traffic officer to help you, or set the motorway signs to temporarily clear lane one to assist you to re-join the motorway.

- **Breaking down in a live lane**
  - In the event that your car has broken down in a live lane, once the regional traffic control centre is aware of your situation, via the police or roadside technology such as CCTV, they can use the smart motorway technology to set overhead signs and close the lane to help keep traffic away from you. They will also send a traffic officer or the police to help you.

- **If it is not possible to get out of your vehicle safely, or there is no other place of relative safety to wait, you should stay in your vehicle with your seat belt on and dial ‘999’ if you have access to a working mobile phone.**

- **Exit motorway**
  - If you stop in the nearside lane next to a verge and feel you are able to exit safely with any occupants, consider exiting your vehicle via the nearside (left hand) door, and wait behind the safety barrier, if there is one and it’s safe to do so.