

# M56

**Upgrade to smart motorway**  
junctions 6 to 8



# Junctions 6 to 8

We are improving approximately 4 miles in length (6km), between junction 6 near Manchester Airport and junction 8 near Bowdon by upgrading it to a smart motorway.

This means there will be:

- An additional lane for traffic increasing capacity to reduce congestion.
- More technology on the road to manage incidents.
- More reliable journeys.

Main construction work for the scheme is planned to begin by spring 2020. The scheme is expected to be completed by spring 2022.



**It is important for drivers to understand the different types of technology and features used on smart motorways**

# About smart motorways

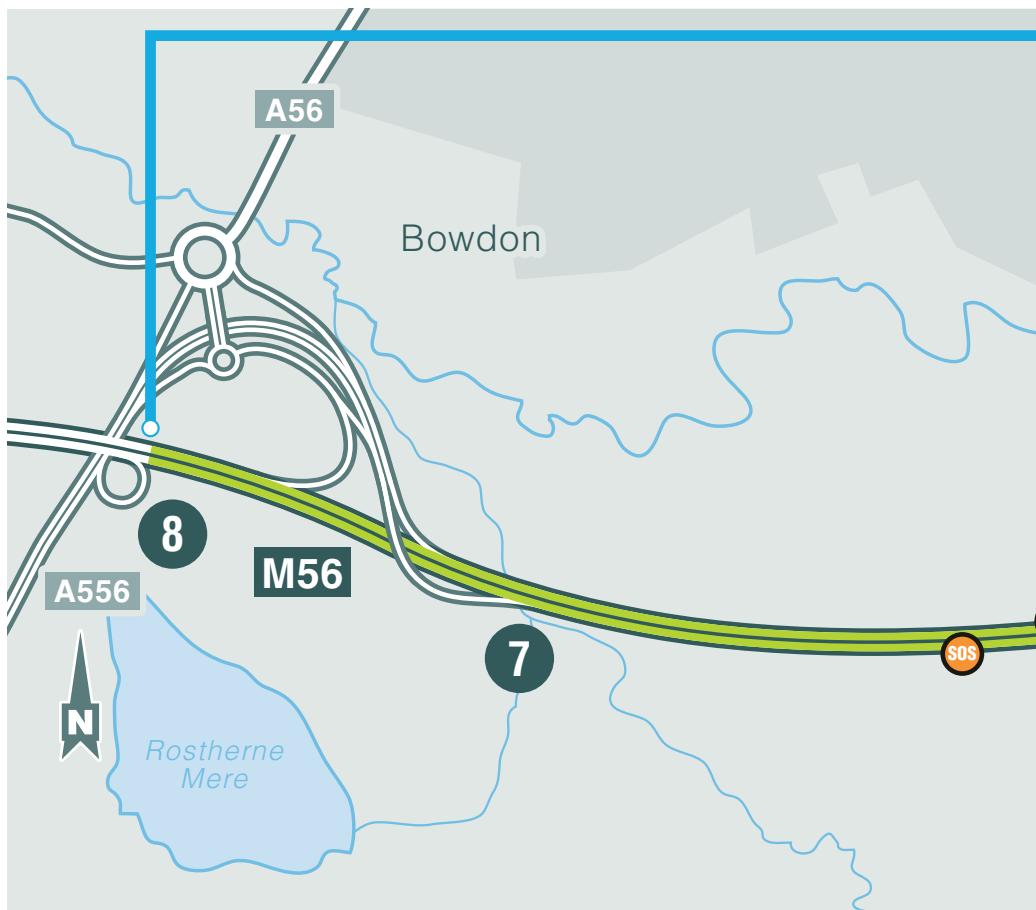
Smart motorways are a technology-driven approach to the use of our motorways, increasing capacity and relieving congestion while maintaining safety. Smart motorways help make journey times more reliable.



# Where will this section of smart motorway be?

## Emergency areas

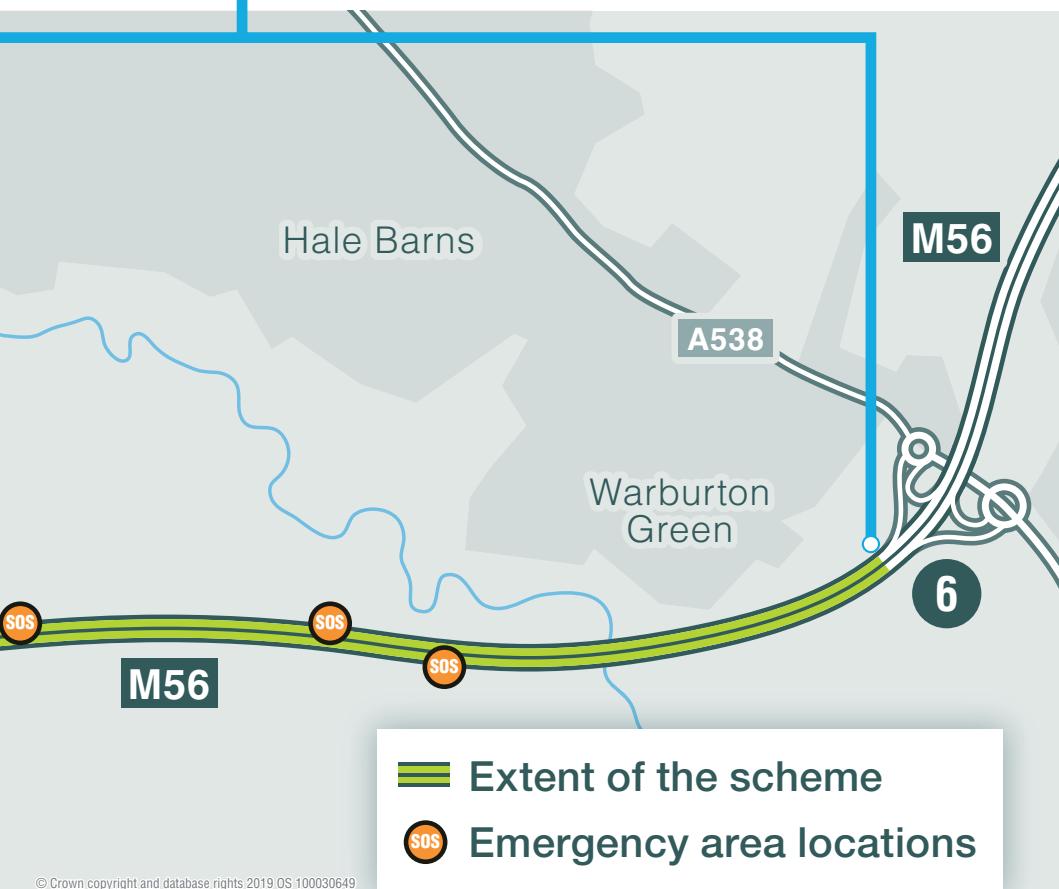
There will be 4 new emergency areas within the M56 junction 6 to 8 smart motorway scheme. Motorway service areas and hard shoulders on slip roads can also be used. The emergency areas are positioned approximately where shown with this symbol .



The map shows where the new section of smart motorway will be.

### All lane running

This scheme will have no hard shoulder between junctions 6 and 8. There will be four lanes permanently open for use by road users. High visibility emergency areas will be available.



# What smart motorways include



## Emergency roadside telephones

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

## Emergency areas

EAs provide an area of relative safety following a breakdown. There will be 4 new EAs on this scheme. Motorway service areas and hard shoulders on slip roads can also be used. At 60mph EAs are every 75 seconds on average.



## 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 sign and incidents

You will see red  symbols on a gantry sign over the motorway or 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 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**

# North-west smart motorway programme

As our region continues to see rapid growth, Highways England is committed to ensuring our roads have the capacity to support it.

Now M6 junction 16 to 19 (Crewe to Knutsford) and Manchester smart motorway (M60 junction 8 to M62 junction 20) are fully operational, we are progressing with further smart motorway schemes.

The first one – a nine-mile stretch of the M62 which links the M6 near Warrington (junction 10) to the M60 near Eccles (junction 12) – is under way. These will be followed by M62 junction 20 to 25, M56 junction 6 to 8, and M6 junction 21a to 26. They are designed to keep drivers safe, reduce congestion and improve journey reliability. We had originally scheduled these projects to run concurrently.

In February 2019 – based on feedback from our customers and stakeholders of their experiences on our network – we announced changes to our smart motorway programme across the north-west to reduce the impact of concurrent roadworks on our customers.

## Our contact details

We have several ways you can contact us to discuss the M56 junctions 6 to 8 smart motorway scheme.

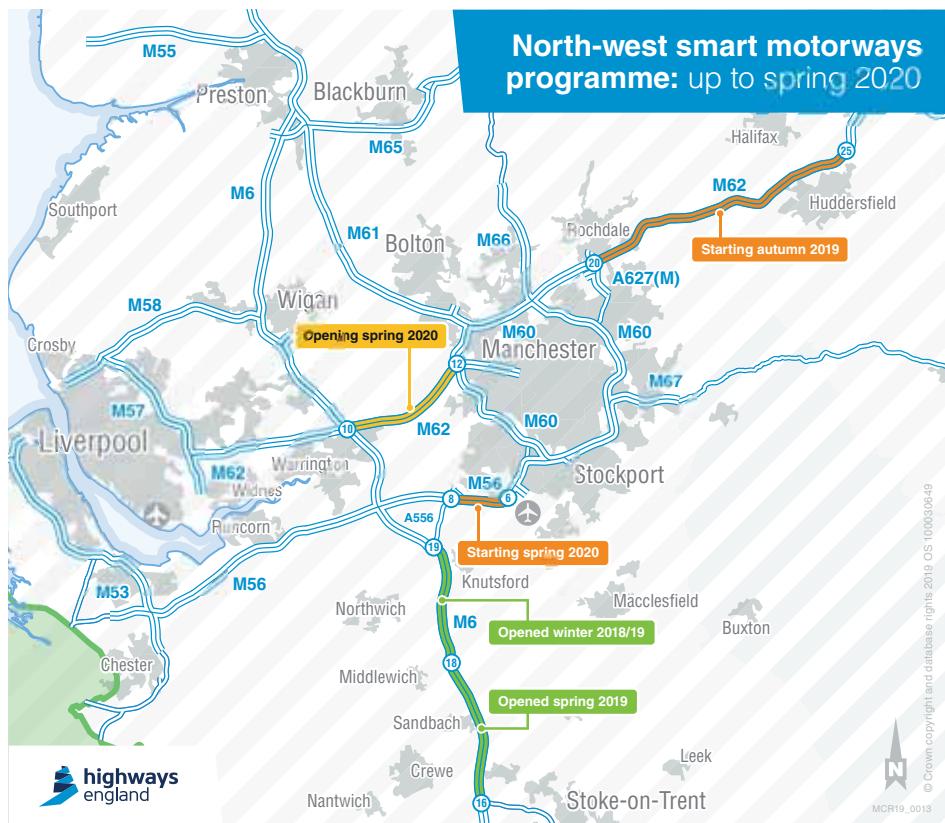
Phone: **0300 123 5000**

Email: **[M56J6-8SmartMotorway@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:M56J6-8SmartMotorway@highwaysengland.co.uk)**

Website: **[www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m56j6to8](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m56j6to8)**

Mailing Address: **M56 J6-8, Highways England, 2 Colmore Square, Birmingham, B4 6BN**

## North-west smart motorways programme: up to spring 2020



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