National Highways announces £167m investment to improve roads across South West of England

The announcement comes as the Government continues its drive to level up transport in regions right across the country, investing in vital infrastructure and boosting both connections and local economies as we build back better from the pandemic.

Well-known motorways and major A-roads including the M5, M4, A40, A36, A303, A30 and A38 are all included in the planned package. Motorists, pedestrians and cyclists are all set to benefit from the planned works, which include road resurfacing, bridge joint replacements, the creation of cycle lanes, improved signage and landscaping.

In total, National Highways will spend £167 million on more than 100 schemes across Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset, Wiltshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall.

Mark Fox, National Highways Interim Regional Director, said:

Hundreds of thousands of drivers use our roads every day for work journeys, home deliveries and the movement of the goods and services, so it's essential we keep them in a good condition to ensure safety and reliability.

With this investment, National Highways will continue to deliver the essential maintenance and upgrades throughout the region to improve safety and help keep drivers on the move.

National Highways will begin work on its comprehensive maintenance programme in the coming weeks, with schemes including:

- M5 Junction 16 Patchway and Almondsbury Interchange deck refurbishments
- M5 Junctions 20-21 St Georges Railway Bridge deck refurbishment
- A36 Dundas Retaining Wall
- A36 Bath to Monkton Combe Drainage
- M5 Junctions 10-11 Bamfurlong Lane deck refurbishment
- M5 Junctions 13-14 Michaelwood Footbridge replacement
- A38 Chudleigh Station Drainage Improvements

This latest investment into the region's roads follows on from last year's essential maintenance programme which saw National Highways pump £200m into the completion of 121 road renewal and maintenance projects.

Over the past 12 months, National Highways resurfaced 277 lane km (172.1 miles) of motorways and major A-roads in the South West, using 221,177 tonnes

of resurfacing material.

A further 84,948 road studs were laid to help light the way for drivers, 77kms (47.8 miles) of safety barrier were renewed, with 23kms (14 miles) of drainage improvements to reduce carriageway flooding and 36 new bridge joints.

To keep up to date with the latest travel information follow <u>@HighwaysSWEST</u> on Twitter or visit the <u>National Highways website</u>.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the National Highways customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the National Highways press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.