

# Press release: Weekend closures for final phase of £192m dual carriageway project

Drivers in Cheshire are being reminded the A556, M56 junctions 7 and 8 and M6 junction 19 will all be closed next weekend as work to open the new £192 million Knutsford to Bowdon dual carriageway gets underway.

Highways England, which is replacing the A556 between the 2 motorways with the new dual carriageway, today confirmed the new road is currently on course to open for the first time on Monday 6 March – after the second of 3 full weekend closures of the existing A556 and 2 motorway junctions.

The first weekend closure, which will be in operation from 9pm next Friday night (17 February) and 5am on the following Monday morning (20 February) – a total of 56 hours – will allow preparations for the old road to be sealed off to through traffic and for the motorway junctions to be tied into the new dual carriageway.

Work over the 3 weekend closures includes linking the southern end of the new dual carriageway (top centre) with the roundabout at junction 19 of the M6 at Knutsford and sealing off the existing A556 (top right)

Highways England project manager Paul Hampson said:

We're delighted to be able to confirm that we can start work next week on preparations to open the new road with the first of these 3 scheduled weekend closures.

We appreciate there will be some inconvenience for people wanting to use the A556 and the 2 motorway junctions over these weekends but we have worked hard to plan diversions for through traffic and local road users, which will be clearly-signed.

We're working to publicise these but road users can help by taking a little bit of extra care in planning journeys, especially if they are heading to Manchester Airport on any of the 3 weekends.

Motorway users will be diverted to alternative junctions to leave or join the M6 or M56.

Drivers on the northbound M6 heading for Manchester and Manchester Airport will need to stay on the M6, join the westbound M56 at Lymm Interchange (M6 junction 20) and then join the eastbound M56 at junction 10 (Preston Brook).

Drivers on the westbound M56 heading away from Manchester and wanting to join the southbound M6 will also need to travel to junction 10 at Preston Brook –

joining the eastbound M56 from there to travel back to Lymm Interchange and access the southbound M6 .

Local diversions , which will be strictly monitored, will also be in place with access to the A50, Chapel Lane and Mereside Road. A one way system, travelling southbound, will be in place at Bucklow Hill to allow access for residents and businesses located between the Bucklow Hill and Mere junctions along Chester Road. Vehicles must use Mereside Road and Chapel Lane to access Chester Road. Traffic marshalls will be at Mere and Bucklow Hill junctions to facilitate the local diversion.

Over the weekend, only the northbound exit slip road at junction 19 of the M6 will remain partially open – allowing drivers to access the southbound, local authority section, of the A556 towards Northwich.

Work during the 3 weekend closures also includes connecting the new dual carriageway at its northern end with junction 7 of the M56 using these new free-flow link roads, opened in December.

Drivers are advised to build in some extra time for the diversions and to check traffic conditions before setting out on journeys. Highways England provides live traffic information [via its website](#), local and national radio travel bulletins, electronic road signs and mobile apps.

Information is also available from Twitter via @highwaysNWEST as well as services in other regions. Providing they can do so safely, road users can also call the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000 to keep up to date with road conditions.

The current schedule for the 3 weekend closures – and the timetable for opening the new road – involves:

- next weekend's full closure of the existing A556 and associated M6 and M56 junctions (Friday 17 February to Monday 20 February)
- a full weekend closure of the existing A556 and associated M6 and M56 junctions from 9pm on Friday 3 March to 5am on Monday 6 March – with the new road opening to drivers for the first time that morning
- a final full weekend closure of the old A556 and new A556 between 9pm on Friday 10 March and 5am on Monday 13 March to finalise work to seal off the old road

Construction of the new A556 link road, between the M56 and the M6, started in November 2014 and is part of a £15 billion government investment in motorways and major A roads by 2021 which is being delivered by Highways England as part of the Northern Powerhouse initiative.

## **General enquiries**

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## Media enquiries

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## [Press release: Plans for new M49 junction at Avonmouth announced](#)

Highways England announced the preferred option for the new junction, which is part of the government's £15 billion road investment programme. The junction will improve road access and provide a much needed connection into the Avonmouth and Severnside Enterprise Area from the motorway network.

Featuring a two bridge junction design, the proposal uses the existing bridge at Farm Lane with a second bridge being built immediately adjacent.

The two bridges will be incorporated into a single roundabout that spans the motorway with new access and exit slip roads built on both sides of the junction so that it connects fully with both northbound and southbound traffic.

Highways England South West Regional Director Andrew Page-Dove said:

We recognise the strategic importance of the Avonmouth and Severnside Enterprise Area as a key regional employment site and that is why we are helping to unlock economic growth in the area by building this new junction.

Over the last few months we have worked hard to identify the best possible design for the junction and we are excited to share our plans with local stakeholders, businesses and the community.

As well as boosting the local economy, the junction will also improve access to the regional road network and relieve traffic on local roads.

Three design options were shortlisted for the scheme and these were presented at an information event in July 2016, where members of the public, businesses and stakeholders were invited to give feedback. Highways England also worked closely with the local community before deciding on the preferred design.

Simon Tothill, Property and Development Director for Robert Hitchins Ltd, who own the Westagte 296-acre employment site with Harrow Estates plc, said:

This will be a huge boost to the local economy and is a very welcome investment by Highways England.

It will change the profile of Westgate dramatically, and unlock a large and incredibly well located site which, already benefits from planning permission, for employment uses. It opens the door to significant economic activity and will provide for thousands of new jobs.

The design of the Farm Lane Two Bridge option will now be taken forward and will involve the detailed design of the new layout including drainage requirements, pedestrian, cyclist and equestrian access, as well as environmental improvements.

Subject to statutory approval under the Highways Act 1980 and approval from the Secretary of State, construction is planned to start by the end of 2017.

Another information event will be held before construction starts to ensure everyone understands details of the final proposal and the associated construction programme. The estimated cost of the scheme is £45 million. Additional information is also available on the [Highways England project website](#) which will be updated on a regular basis.

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## **[Press release: Planned roadworks in West Midlands: weekly summary for Monday 13 February to Sunday 19 February 2017](#)**

The following summary of planned new and ongoing road improvements over the coming week is correct as of 10 February 2017 but could be subject to change due to weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances. All our improvement work is carried out with the aim of causing as little disruption as possible.

## **A38 – Claymills to Wood End Lane: carriageway repairs**

Southbound carriageway closed overnight between 8pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **A38 – Alrewas to Toyota: carriageway repairs**

Northbound carriageway closed overnight between 8pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **A449 – Gailey roundabout to Brewood Road: carriageway repairs**

South and northbound carriageway closed overnight between 8pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **A46 – Oversley to Shottery: carriageway repairs**

Carriageway closed in both directions overnight between 8pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **A49 – Wellington Marsh: carriageway repairs**

Carriageway closed in both directions overnight between 8pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **A49 – A44 Worcester Road: carriageway repairs**

Carriageway closed in both directions overnight between 8pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **A5 – Gledrid roundabout and approaches: widening scheme**

Roundabout and associated approaches closed overnight between 9pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **A5 – Wall Island to Muckley Corner: carriageway repairs**

Westbound carriageway closed overnight between 7pm and 6.30am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **A50 – Meir tunnel to Stanley Matthews Way: carriageway repairs**

Westbound Carriageway closed overnight between 8pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **A50 – Heron Cross to Stanley Matthews interchange Blurton Road entry slip road: carriageway repairs**

Westbound carriageway closed 24 hours 7 days a week from 8 February ongoing until 7 July. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **A50 – Blythe Bridge entry slip road to Meir tunnel: carriageway repairs**

Westbound carriageway closed overnight between 8pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **A50 – Heron Cross exit slip road to Foley Road Interchange: carriageway repairs**

Eastbound Carriageway and all associated slip roads closed overnight between 8pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **A500 – Talke island including exit slip roads and approaches: carriageway repairs**

Eastside of the gyratory including all associated slip roads and approaches will be closed 24 hours 7 days a week from 11 January ongoing until 30 March. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **M42 – junction 5 exit slip road: carriageway repairs**

Northbound exit slip road closed overnight between 10pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **M42 – junction 3a to junction 5 including junction 4 entry slip: carriageway works**

Northbound carriageway including junction 4 entry slip road closed overnight between 10pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **M42 – M6 junction 4a to M42: carriageway works**

Southbound carriageway closed overnight between 10pm and 5am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **M42 – junction 6 exit slip road: carriageway works**

Northbound exit slip road closed overnight between 10pm and 6am from 17 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **M42 – junction 5 to junction 6: carriageway works**

Northbound carriageway closed overnight between 10pm and 6am from 17 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **M50 – junction 2 to junction 1: major scheme works**

Eastbound carriageway closed overnight between 8pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **M50 – junction 4 to junction 2: major scheme works**

Westbound carriageway closed overnight between 8pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **M50 – junction 1 to junction 2: major scheme works**

Westbound carriageway closed overnight between 8pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **M54 – junction 5 to junction 6: carriageway repairs**

Westbound carriageway closed overnight between 8pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **M54 – junction 5 entry slip road: carriageway repairs**

Westbound entry slip road closed overnight between 8pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **M6 – junction 7 entry slip road to junction 6: carriageway works**

Southbound carriageway and associated slip roads closed overnight between 9pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **M6 – junction 7 to junction 10 including junction 9 entry slip and link from M5 northbound: carriageway works**

Northbound carriageway and associated slip roads closed overnight between 9pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **M6 – junction 11 entry slip road to junction 10 exit including M54 junction 1 entry slip road: carriageway works**

Southbound carriageway and associated slip roads closed overnight between 9pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **M6 – junction 10 to junction 7 including junction 10 and 9 entry slip roads and link from M5: carriageway works**

Southbound carriageway and associated slip roads closed overnight between 9pm and 6am from 13 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **M6 – junction 7 entry slip road: carriageway works**

Northbound entry slip road closed 24 hours 7 day days a week from 12am 17 February ongoing until 12am 24 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **M6 – junction 7 to junction 8: carriageway works**

Northbound carriageway closed overnight between 9pm and 6am from 17 February until 19 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **A45 Stonebridge Highway eastbound: carriageway works**

Carriageway will be closed between Stivichall junction and Tollbar roundabout between 8pm and 6am on 13 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

## **A45/A46 Tollbar underpass westbound: carriageway**



## **works**

Carriageway will be closed between 8pm and 6am on 13 and 14 February. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

### **M5 junction 4a to 5 southbound: major scheme works**

Carriageway will be closed between 8pm and 6am from February 13 to February 17 and February 19. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

### **M5 junction 5 to 4a northbound: major scheme works**

Carriageway including northbound entry slip at junction 5 will be closed between 8pm and 6am from February 13 to February 17 and February 19. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

### **M5 junction 6 to 5 northbound: major scheme works**

Carriageway including northbound entry slip at junction 6 will be closed between 8pm and 6am on February 19. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

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## **[Press release: Planned roadworks in East Midlands: weekly summary for Monday 13 February to Sunday 19 February 2016](#)**

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## **M1 junction 28 to 35a, Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire/Yorkshire: smart motorway**

There are various restrictions in place on the M1 between junctions 28 and 35a to allow for the construction of the smart motorway. These include lane closures, speed restrictions, hard shoulder running and overnight slip road or carriageway closures.

On Monday 13 February the northbound carriageway between junctions 32 and 33, northbound exit slip at junction 29, southbound up and over at junctions 32 and 33 and M18 southbound to northbound M1 link will be closed overnight from 8pm until 6am.

On Tuesday 14 February the northbound carriageway between junctions 32 and 33, northbound entry slip at junction 29, northbound exit slip at junction 34, southbound entry slip at junction 34, southbound up and over at junctions 32 and 33 and M18 southbound to northbound M1 link will be closed overnight from 8pm until 6am.

On Wednesday 15 February the northbound carriageway between junctions 32 and 33, northbound entry slip at junction 29, southbound up and over at junctions 32 and 33 and M18 southbound to northbound M1 link will be closed overnight from 8pm until 6am.

On Thursday 16 February the northbound carriageway between junctions 32 and 33, northbound entry slip at junction 28 and M18 southbound to northbound M1 link will be closed overnight from 8pm until 6am.

On Friday 17 February the northbound exit slip at junctions 30 and 33 and the southbound up and over at junctions 33 and 34 will be closed overnight from 8pm until 6am.

On Saturday 18 February and Sunday 19 February the northbound up and over at junctions 32 and 33 will be closed overnight from 8pm until 6am.

## **M1 junction 19 to 16, Northamptonshire: smart motorway**

On Monday 13 February and Tuesday 14 February there will be a full southbound carriageway closure between junctions 18 and 16 along with the closure of two lanes northbound; closure of the southbound junction 18 entry slip, closure of southbound entry and exit slips at Watford gap services and closure of the southbound junction 16 exit slip from 9pm to 6am.

From Wednesday 15 February to Friday 17 February two lanes will be closed north and southbound between junctions 18 and 16 from 9pm to 6am.

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# [News story: Work underway at Kilbowie Road, Clydebank](#)

From:

First published:

10 February 2017

Extensive works to fill a 62 metre deep unrecorded mine shaft that caused a collapse under Kilbowie Road in Clydebank are underway.

The Coal Authority has taken responsibility for the site and the repair works will take between 6 to 8 weeks to complete.

Only a 6 metre deep hole is visible at the road surface, but this leads to the shaft which goes down a further 56 metres to a total depth of 62 metres.

Work began last week with stone, pressurised grouting and a concrete plug being needed to stabilise the ground. Once the shaft is filled, work will begin on reconstructing the road.

Tim Marples, Head of Public Safety and Subsidence for the Coal Authority, said that work to repair the collapse in Kilbowie Road has already begun.

He added: "The unrecorded shaft at Kilbowie Road is one of our top operational priorities and our prime concern is the safety of the public.

"Our engineers have designed a solution to safely fill the shaft and repair the road and we're working with West Dunbartonshire Council and the utility companies on our proposals.

"This particular repair is complicated by the exposed utility services within the 62 metre deep void, which we're working to protect.

"From our experience, the work will take between 6 to 8 weeks to complete and

cost in the region of £250,000.

“Our aim is get the road re-opened as soon as possible to minimise the impact on local residents and traffic. We apologise for the inconvenience and disruption caused presently and during the forthcoming works.”

[For more details please read the full press release](#)

[For further updates please visit West Dunbartonshire Council's website](#)