

# 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 Westgate 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.

### **General enquiries**

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

### **Media enquiries**

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

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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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# [Green pressure sees Government finally publish shelved employment status law review](#)



10 February 2017

**\* Greens condemn Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for not publishing employment status law review for more than a year**

**\* Jonathan Bartley, Green co-leader: "As Tory ministers sat on the review's findings workers everywhere have been left to fend for themselves"**

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has finally published a review into employment status law [1] which was launched and then shelved under the Coalition Government.

The publication, more than two years after the review's launch in October 2014, and more than 13 months after the report was seemingly ready for publication in December 2015, came after repeated calls from Green co-leader Jonathan Bartley for the Government to stop "sitting on the findings" [2].

The report's belated publication coincides with a court ruling today (February 10) which found a plumber working on a self-employed contract is in fact entitled to the rights of a worker [3].

Bartley wrote an open letter to the Prime Minister in October last year [2] calling for the review to be published after a similar ruling found two Uber drivers were not self-employed but entitled to workers' rights.

Bartley said:

"It is shameful that Tory ministers have sat on the findings of the Coalition's review into employment status. As they did so workers everywhere have been living in increasing insecurity and left to fend for themselves.

"Without legislation which adequately safeguards their rights these workers have been badly let down and it is clear this review should have been published at the earliest opportunity – in 2015.

"More and more court rulings are showing what can be achieved when people

take control and stand up against exploitation and demonstrating how woefully insufficient our employment status law it is for dealing with modern employment practices.

“It is welcome that these issues are now being addressed by the ongoing review led by Matthew Taylor of the RSA, but the substantial and important findings of the report just published should have been put in the public domain long before now, so as to inform debate and help formulate ideas for law reform.”

**Notes:**

1. [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/585383/employment-status-review-2015.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/585383/employment-status-review-2015.pdf)
2. <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2016/10/28/green-party-open-letter-to-theresa-may-landmark-uber-ruling-means-government-must-reveal-findings-of-shelved-employment-status-law-review/>
3. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-38931211>

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## [Shadow Cabinet appointments](#)

Ian Lavery and Andrew Gwynne are appointed joint National Elections and Campaign Coordinators for the Labour Party.

Jon Trickett is appointed Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office and will remain Shadow Lord President of the Council.

**Ends**