

e-bulletin – January 2024

Dear Stakeholder

Dynamic Hard Shoulder safety enhancements – M1 junctions 10 to 13

I'm writing to update you on the work National Highways is doing to improve safety on the M1 between junctions 10 and 13, covering 15.5 miles of the M1 in Bedfordshire.

I last wrote to you on 21 November 2023 with details of carriageway closures before Christmas for preparatory work.

We've now largely completed our preparations, ahead of the main safety enhancement scheme starting in January 2024.

Scheme Background

National Highways is delivering a series of safety enhancements to sections of dynamic hard shoulder motorways across the country. These dynamic hard shoulder sections allow traffic to use the hard shoulder under mandatory variable speed limits to ease congestion when traffic levels are heavy. The work is part of our commitment to invest in the safety of [smart motorways](#) and improve people's confidence in them.

On the M1 between junctions 10 at Luton airport (south), and 13 for Bedford/Milton Keynes South, we will be upgrading 11.2 miles (18km) of central reservation steel barrier to a new concrete one. Concrete barriers are even stronger than metal ones and significantly reduce the risk of vehicles crossing over from one carriageway to another, improving safety and reducing the duration of incident-related congestion. They also require less maintenance, thus reducing customer disruption.

We'll be making further safety enhancements by adding traffic and information signs between the junctions and installing new CCTV cameras. We'll also be taking the opportunity to carry out drainage work.

Scheme details

We'll begin by changing some of the existing road layouts. This involves removing and/or reconfiguring road markings.

To minimise disruption while work is carried out, we will maintain road capacity by keeping three lanes open with a 50mph average speed restriction in place. The hard shoulder and lane 1 will remain at the current lane widths, with lane 2 being narrowed down.

Lane 3 will be closed while work is being carried out for the safety of road users and road workers. We do this to make the area safe for our team to work in.

We'll also install temporary traffic management (metal barriers) in the central reservation to protect our workers from vehicles whilst they carry out their work.

Our important upgrade work on the M1 will start once the narrow lanes and traffic management barriers have been fully installed. We expect the upgrade works to be completed by Spring 2025.

This work will be done overnight when traffic levels are at their lowest. The overnight closures will usually start from 10pm and finish by 5am but this can change slightly depending on the volume of traffic and when we can close the road safely. Each closure will have fully signed diversion routes in place. Please find below the closure information:

Date	Duration	Closure details	Extra time to allow
Thursday 4 January for 2 nights	10pm – 5am	Overnight closure of M1 junction 13 entry and exit slip roads Northbound	15 mins
Saturday 6 January for 2 nights	10pm – 5am	Overnight closure of M1 junction 13 entry and exit slip roads Southbound	15 mins
Wednesday 10 January for 4 nights	10pm – 5am	Full overnight closure of M1 junction 9 to 11a Northbound	25 mins
Tuesday 16 January for 4 nights	10pm – 5am	Full overnight closure of M1 junction 11a to 14 Northbound	40 mins
Saturday 20 January for 4 nights	10pm – 5am	Full overnight closure of M1 junction 14 to 11a Southbound	40 mins
Wednesday 24 January for 4 nights	10pm – 5am	Full overnight closure of M1 junction 11a to 9 Southbound	25 mins
Monday 29 January for 5 nights	10pm – 5am	Full overnight closure of M1 junction 11a to 14 Northbound	40 mins

Please note these are provisional dates which may be subject to change due to conditions outside of our control, such as adverse weather or road incidents. We'll update our website accordingly with any changes, which can be accessed at: www.nationalhighways.co.uk/M1junction10-13

We'll do all we can to keep disruption to a minimum, but we anticipate delays during peak times, so we're encouraging drivers to plan their journeys. We'll publish regular updates on our project webpage at www.nationalhighways.co.uk/M1junction10-13 and social media.

We're working with colleagues across National Highways to ensure that these works are coordinated alongside other maintenance needed on the network, so that we minimise disruption to the public.

Drivers are asked to follow the signed diversion routes during these road closures. Please do not use satellite navigation (sat nav) when following the diversion, as they may give conflicting information. Please be considerate of residents living along the diversion routes when using these roads when the M1 is closed. Diversion timings are approximate and are a guide only: please check Traffic England (www.trafficengland.co.uk) for current traffic conditions.

You can find out more about the wider programme on our website at: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/DHSEenhancements>.

Please be aware of another nearby road project, the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet scheme, will be installing CCTV on the A1 in both directions between Sandy and Black Cat roundabout (where the A421 meets the A1 just east of Bedford) and will need to make some road closures during January. Read more details at: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/a428-black-cat-to-caxton-gibbet/>

I hope this information is helpful and we sincerely apologise in advance for any inconvenience this essential work may cause. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact our National Highways Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000 or info@nationalhighways.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

Kate Partridge
Project Manager