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Exhibition

# M25 JUNCTION 25 IMPROVEMENT & HOLMESDALE TUNNEL REFURBISHMENT

**PUBLIC INFORMATION LEAFLET**

WORK COMMENCES AUTUMN 2005  
UNTIL SPRING 2007



# INTRODUCTION

This leaflet provides a brief description of the scheme to refurbish the Holmesdale Tunnel and to improve the M25 motorway through Junction 25. You are invited to the Public Exhibition, which will explain the proposals in more detail. We will be available to answer your questions.

The M25 London Orbital Motorway is a vital component in Britain's motorway network designed to allow strategic traffic to bypass London. Since its completion in 1986 it has become one of the busiest motorways in Europe, coming under ever increasing strain. The northern section, where Junction 25 is situated, experiences traffic flows of over 120,000 vehicles per day.

## **Carriageway**

The majority of the M25 carriageway in this area is dual three-lane carriageways, however at Junction 25 the motorway was designed with only 2 lanes available for through traffic.

## **Tunnel**

The mechanical and electrical equipment installed is at the end of its design life and is becoming beyond economic repair.

## **Background to the improvements**

A traffic study identified that congestion is due to restrictions caused by the reduction of through lanes. The study recommended that the carriageways should be widened to create three traffic lanes through Junction 25 in both directions. The westbound improvements were completed in 2002, but the tunnel improvements are required before the eastbound improvements can be undertaken.

## **What are the improvements?**

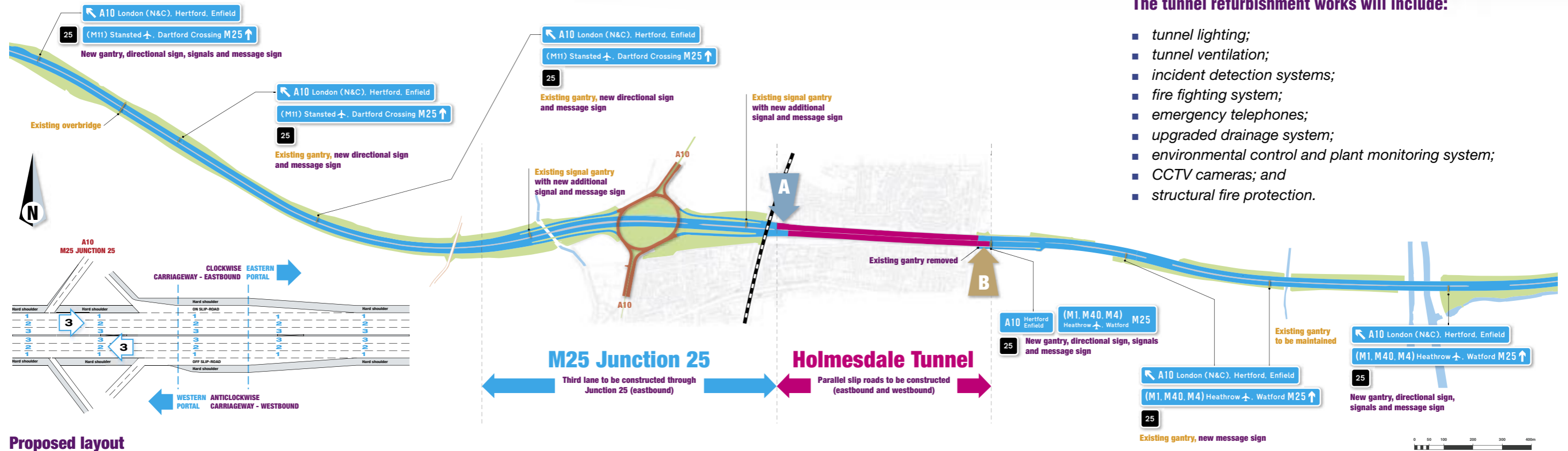
Refurbishment of the tunnel will improve tunnel operation and minimise costs. The junction improvements will decrease congestion and improve journey time reliability.



# EASTBOUND IMPROVEMENTS & TUNNEL REFURBISHMENT

## Improvement works will include:

- The eastbound carriageway will be widened by one lane through the junction.
- Additional gantries will be installed to improve traffic information and enhance safety for road users.



## The tunnel refurbishment works will include:

- tunnel lighting;
- tunnel ventilation;
- incident detection systems;
- fire fighting system;
- emergency telephones;
- upgraded drainage system;
- environmental control and plant monitoring system;
- CCTV cameras; and
- structural fire protection.

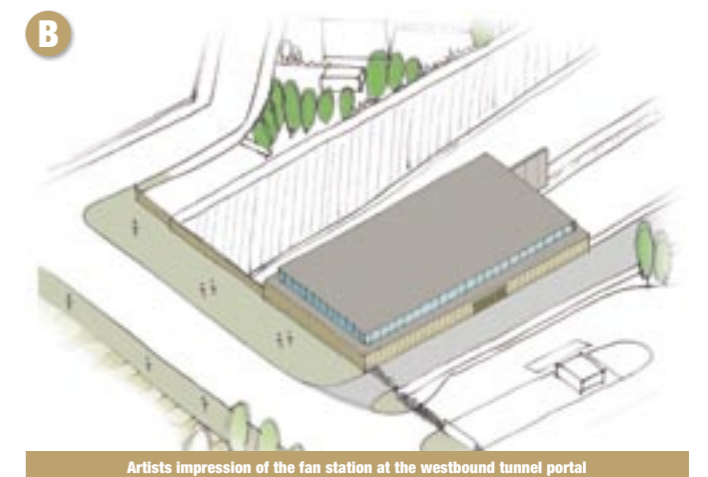
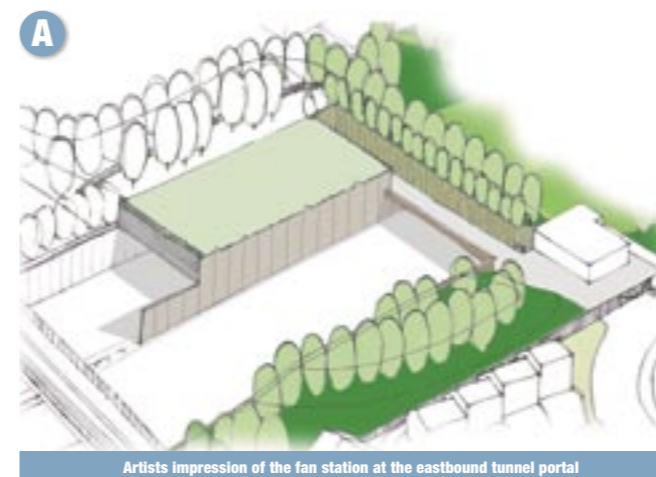
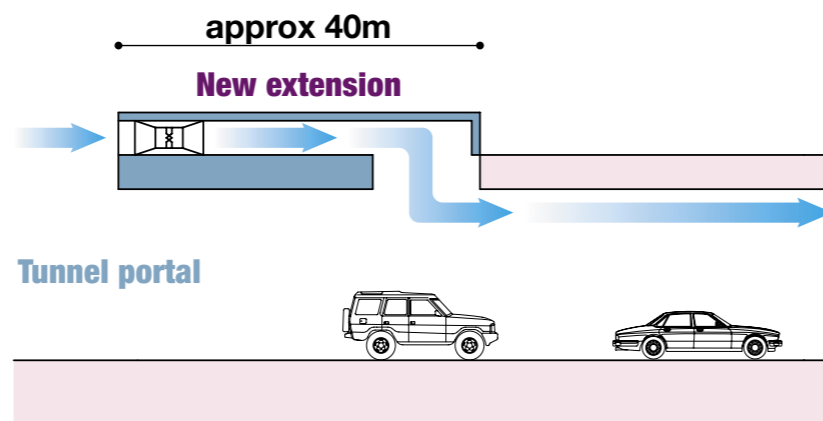
## Proposed layout

## Tunnel ventilation

Under normal conditions the tunnel will self ventilate through the action of passing vehicles. When traffic is slow moving air quality can deteriorate and in these conditions mechanical ventilation is required.

In the event of an incident involving a tunnel fire, the ventilation system will be required to keep smoke and hot gases away from the tunnel users whilst the tunnel is being evacuated.

The new ventilation fans will be positioned over the tunnel portals and will push air through the tunnel in a similar way to the current ventilation system.



# THE WORKS

## **What happens next?**

The design and construction contract for the works described in this leaflet will be awarded in Spring 2005. The main construction works are anticipated to commence in Autumn 2005, and all of the major works should be completed by Spring 2007. A further exhibition will be held before the start of works at which time more details will be made available.



# THE ENVIRONMENT

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The land around M25 Junction 25 and Holmesdale Tunnel has a variety of uses including residential, rural, commercial and industrial. Areas of importance in the Environmental Assessment include:

- *Surrounding residential areas and open spaces*
- *The Lee Valley Regional Park*
- *Areas of special environmental interest*
- *Areas of archaeological interest*
- *Listed Buildings/ ancient monuments.*

The proposals will take these into account.

## **Environmental Impacts**

An Environmental Assessment has been conducted and considered the impact of the proposals on air, noise, water quality, ecology and nature conservation, landscape and townscape and cultural heritage. This assessment shows slight adverse impacts to ecology/nature conservation and landscape/townscape. These are:

- *Visibility of the proposed fan station buildings. These will be visible from a total of 212 properties located mainly on the roads immediately north and south of the tunnel portals.*
- *Loss of sections of existing grass and scrub verge. These areas comprise low levels of biodiversity and ecological value in comparison with other areas in the environmental assessment area.*

All other environmental impacts were assessed as neutral.

Further details of the Environmental Assessment will be available at the exhibition and the Highways Agency website [www.highways.gov.uk](http://www.highways.gov.uk)

## **Minimising Environmental Impacts**

We will minimise any effects and where possible improve the local environment through the following measures:

- *New planting of native vegetation to mitigate wildlife and visual impacts*
  - *Retaining existing vegetation where appropriate*
  - *Enhanced drainage systems to maintain water quality of nearby watercourses*
  - *Lighting and signalling designed to minimise visual impact*
  - *Materials used in construction of fan station buildings to blend in with local townscape.*
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# THE WORKS

## How will this affect you?

We appreciate that there will be some inconvenience during the works and we will do our best to minimise disruption to the local road network and local communities.

## Traffic management during the works

For the safety of road users and the workforce each tunnel bore will need to be closed while work is carried out. All M25 traffic will use the other open tunnel bore in a dual two lane contra flow. This will require the closure of the clockwise entry slip and the anticlockwise exit slip at Junction 25. Traffic currently using these slip roads at Junction 25 will need to find alternative routes. The diversion will be sign posted from Junction 25 along the motorway to Junction 24 before returning eastwards.

## Impact on traffic

Traffic modeling indicates that delays on the motorway will be slight to moderate with moderate to severe delays on some local roads. Motorway traffic will stay on the motorway

Routes taken by local traffic to access M25 in this area are complex and motorists with local knowledge have a variety of routes to get to the motorway. The Highways Agency will provide information, in conjunction with the local authorities, to inform road users and encourage them to plan their journeys in advance and to minimise disruption to local traffic. During these works, which are expected to last 18 months, road users should allow extra time for their journeys.



# THE EXHIBITION

A public exhibition has been arranged at which details of the proposed improvements will be on display. Key personnel from the Highways Agency and their design consultants will be at the exhibition to answer any questions you may have on this scheme.

The free public exhibition will be held at:

**Capel Manor Primary School,  
Bullsmoor Lane, Enfield EN1 4RL**

**Friday 25 February 2005 - 6:00pm to 9:00pm**

**Saturday 26 February 2005 - 10:00am to 4:00pm**



# CONTACT US

If you would like to know more about the work of the Highways Agency, or need more information on this scheme, please write to the address below:

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Broad Street  
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Email [ha\\_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk)

Alternatively, we can be contacted at:

Highways Agency Information Line

**08457 50 40 30** (calls charged at local rate)

Highways Agency website [www.highways.gov.uk](http://www.highways.gov.uk)

