

# M25 JUNCTION 25 IMPROVEMENT & HOLMESDALE TUNNEL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT NEWSLETTER



## Welcome to the M25 Junction 25 Improvement and Holmesdale Tunnel Refurbishment Project Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter about the project to improve the M25 Motorway through Junction 25 and to refurbish the Holmesdale Tunnel. When completed this scheme will decrease traffic congestion through the junction and improve journey time reliability. Refurbishment of the tunnel will improve tunnel operation and maintenance. This work is due to start Saturday 06 May 2006 with completion by December 2007.

Our main challenges on this project are ensuring the safety of the public and our workforce, minimising the impact of the works on the local community and ensuring delays to road users are minimised. The protection of the environment during construction is also a key issue and the team has developed control procedures that will operate throughout the construction phase.

This is the first of our newsletters which we will produce quarterly during the construction period to keep you informed about progress.

### Our first newsletter tells you:

- why the work is needed;
- what construction work we will be carrying out;
- how we will minimise disturbance to you and the local community;
- what we are doing to keep the traffic flowing; and
- how to contact us.

We hope you find the newsletter interesting and informative. We welcome your comments and queries. Our contact details can be found on the back page of this newsletter.



**Eamonn Colgan**  
Project Leader  
Highways Agency



**Bob Ibell**  
Project Director  
Costain  
Capita Symonds

## Public Exhibitions

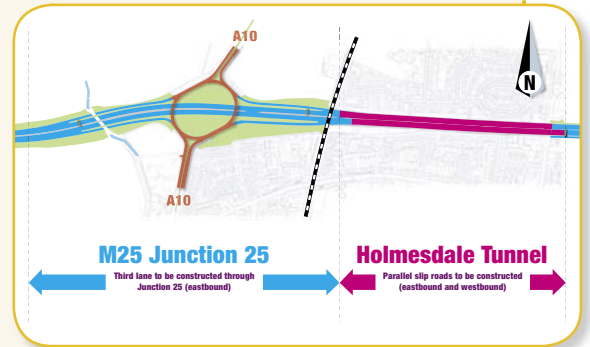
We are to hold three Start of Works Public Exhibitions in the area adjacent to the works to inform local residents of the scheme and the work that will be carried out. These exhibitions are to be held in April 2006 at the following locations:

- **Monday 10th April**, 2.00pm - 9.00pm St Georges Parish Hall & Community Centre, 710 Hertford Road, Enfield.
- **Tuesday 11 April**, 2.00pm - 9.00pm, Capel Manor College, Bullsmoor Lane, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 4RL.
- **Wednesday 12 April**, 2.00pm - 9.00pm, Town Hall, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 1DE.

Please come along and meet the team to discuss any issues you might have and to view the information that we have to share with you about the project.

## The need for the scheme

The M25 London Orbital Motorway is a vital component in Britain's motorway network. The northern section, where Junction 25 is situated, carries some 125,000 vehicles per day. The majority of the M25 in this area consists of dual three-lane carriageways, however, at Junction 25 the motorway was designed with only two lanes for through traffic. Frequent congestion is caused by restrictions caused by the reduction of through lanes.



Holmesdale Tunnel is 650m long and is located to the east of Junction 25. Refurbishment is required because the tunnel's mechanical and electrical systems are at the end of their design life and are becoming beyond economic repair.

## What we will be doing

- The scheme extends from approximately 1 mile (1.6km) west of Junction 25 to 1 mile (1.6km) east of the Holmesdale Tunnel. Works will be carried out within the existing highway boundary.
- Eastbound Improvements: The existing layout will be improved to provide a 3 lane carriageway through Junction 25. The tunnel improvements are required before the extra lane can be provided.
- Upgrade and full refurbishment of the tunnel equipment in line with current standards and new legislation.
- Additional operational safety measures, provision of external ventilation and passive fire protection of structure.
- Removal of raised walkways.

## This is our timetable for the main works:

**Improvement to Junction 25 of the M25 and the Holmesdale Tunnel Refurbishment Project will be carried out in the following major phases:**

- Phase 1** (17 weeks) Refurbishment of the central wall.
- Phase 2** (28 weeks) Complete refurbishment of the equipment in the eastbound tunnel bore and construction of the 3rd lane.
- Phase 3** (28 weeks) Complete refurbishment of the equipment in the westbound tunnel bore.
- Phase 4 & 5** (6 weeks) Finishing works to the central reservations and replacement of the safety barriers.

The east facing slip roads will be closed throughout the duration of the works.

## Advance works are already underway...

Some advance works have already begun. These include:

- ground, drainage and environment surveys;
- installation of motorway cable;
- clearance of existing vegetation and installation of fencing;
- installation of CCTV systems to monitor the area of traffic management;
- setting up traffic management recovery bays;
- establishing the site compound; and
- strategic signing.

*We will protect the environment, including plants and wildlife during the course of the work*

## Minimising impact on the local community...

Costain Limited will endeavour to minimise the effects of the M25 Holmesdale Tunnel project, not only for the motorist but also the neighbouring communities, including residents and businesses. We will continue to liaise with the local councils throughout the project.

### **Advance notice to residents.**

During the project, advance notices will be circulated to all parties likely to be affected by the works, advising of possible disruptions. These notices will consist of newsletters to local residents and local authorities, as well as information left in local service stations, post offices, community centres and libraries.

We are liaising with the local Environmental Health Officers who represent the local Borough and District Councils to discuss our construction works which will be carried out 24 hours per day 7 days per week. Residents who may be affected by our works will be advised in advance.

### **We will update you as the work progresses.**

We will inform residents as well as the local and wider communities, as the project progresses.

### **We will keep local people and motorway users updated through:**

- publicity in local media, quarterly newsletters and information flyers delivered door-to-door;
- exhibitions and presentations to the local community;
- advance warning and information signs on the motorway;
- the Highways Agency website;
- the Traffic England helpline; and
- radio travel bulletins.

## Protecting the environment

### **Advance works already underway**

An environmental plan is in place which takes into account the following factors;

### **Ecological works to protect plants and wildlife:**

- consultation with regulatory and advisory bodies;
- site surveys;
- protecting species and habitats that might be adversely impacted by the project; and
- assessment of ecological information for detail design of the building work.

### **Measures to minimise impact on local residents:**

- a low-noise surface will be provided;
- noise from the fan station will be limited by careful design;
- noise levels will be monitored during the works;
- new planting of native vegetation to embrace wildlife and mitigate visual impact; and
- lighting and signalling designed to minimise visual impact.



*A speed limit of 40mph will be imposed throughout the roadworks, to enhance the safety of the travelling public and our workforce*

## Keeping the Traffic Flowing

**While we are carrying out these improvements please allow more time for your journey. On this section of the motorway allow an additional 15 minutes at peak times. For local roads adjacent to the scheme allow approximately an extra 20 - 30 minutes during peak times.**

**Two lanes of the M25 will be kept open in each direction through the Holmesdale Tunnel, throughout the duration of the works.**

We will rarely have to close lanes and this will only take place at times of reduced traffic flow, for essential night time works. Closures will be agreed in advance with the local motorway police and the Highways Agency and we will give advance notice of lane closures.

### **Contraflows and speed limits to keep everyone safe**

In order to carry out the works, it will be necessary to implement contraflows and narrowed lanes. At the same time, we will maintain - two lanes of traffic in each direction. A traffic barrier will be provided in contraflow sections and works areas giving additional protection to motorists and the workforce and improving traffic flow through the works. A speed limit of 40mph will be imposed throughout the roadworks, to enhance the safety of the travelling public and our workforce, and this will be rigorously enforced by safety cameras.

### **24-hour accident/emergency vehicle recovery service**

We will operate a 24-hour CCTV camera surveillance throughout the works. Accidents and breakdowns occurring within the works will be monitored and vehicles will be recovered as quickly as possible by our dedicated on-site vehicle recovery service. Drivers and their passengers will be taken to a rest area, where they will be able to wait in safety and comfort whilst making arrangements for their onward journey.

### **Traffic Management on slip roads**

In order to protect the workforce and the travelling public, both east facing slip roads will be closed throughout the duration of the works. This will require the closure of the clockwise on slip and the anticlockwise off slip at Junction 25. The diversion sign posted will be from Junction 25 along the motorway to Junction 24 before returning eastwards.

### **Driving safely through roadworks**

- Keep within the speed limit - it is there for your safety.
- Get into the correct lane in good time - don't keep switching.
- Concentrate on the road ahead, not the roadworks.
- Be alert for works traffic leaving or entering roadworks.
- Keep a safe distance - there could be queues in front.
- Observe all signs - they are there to help you.







## Scheme Programme

### Current programme:

- Contract award August 2005
- Design phase April 2006
- Construction phase May 2006, completion by December 2007

## Members of the Project Team

<p><b>The Highways Agency</b> - the Client, responsible to the Secretary of State for Transport, for maintaining, operating and improving the trunk road network.</p>	
<p><b>Mouchel Parkman</b> - the Client's Supervising Agent responsible for monitoring the works on their behalf.</p>	
<p><b>Costain</b> - the main contractor responsible for ensuring that the project is designed and built according to the Client's requirements.</p>	
<p><b>Capita Symonds</b> - the Design Engineer, appointed by Costain as their designer for the project.</p>	



## Please contact us with your comments and queries

### Contacting the Project Team

We will make every effort to keep you fully informed about forthcoming construction and traffic management activities. We welcome your feedback on our performance and on our newsletters.

**Our Community Relations Team** will be available throughout the construction phase as follows:

- By post**                      Community Relations Team  
Costain Limited  
M25 Holmesdale Project  
Site Compound  
Great Cambridge Road  
Enfield, EN8 8EX
- By phone**                      M25 Holmesdale Project Community Helpline  
**01992 657416**
- By email**                      **[gwynfor.williams@costain.com](mailto:gwynfor.williams@costain.com)**
- Online**                         **[www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/4057.aspx](http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/4057.aspx)**

## Contacting the Highways Agency

The Highways Information Line (HAIL) is **08457 50 40 30**  
This number is for motorists who require information.

For real time traffic information, call the Traffic England helpline on **08700 660 115**  
(Calls from BT landlines to 0845 numbers will cost no more than 4p per minute; mobile calls usually cost more)

