

# Extending the motorway • Carlisle to Guards Mill | M6

Public information • November 2006

## Improving your journey

We are extending the M6 north of Carlisle to Guards Mill. This new 6 mile (10 km) section means there will be motorway all the way from London to Glasgow. This will improve safety and reduce congestion making journeys more reliable.

Work started in July 2006 and will take about 21/2 years. Your journeys should remain unaffected by our work until spring 2007 but we will maintain two lanes in each direction, as usual, during the day.

This £174 million project is funded by the Department for Transport and will make two major improvements to the route:

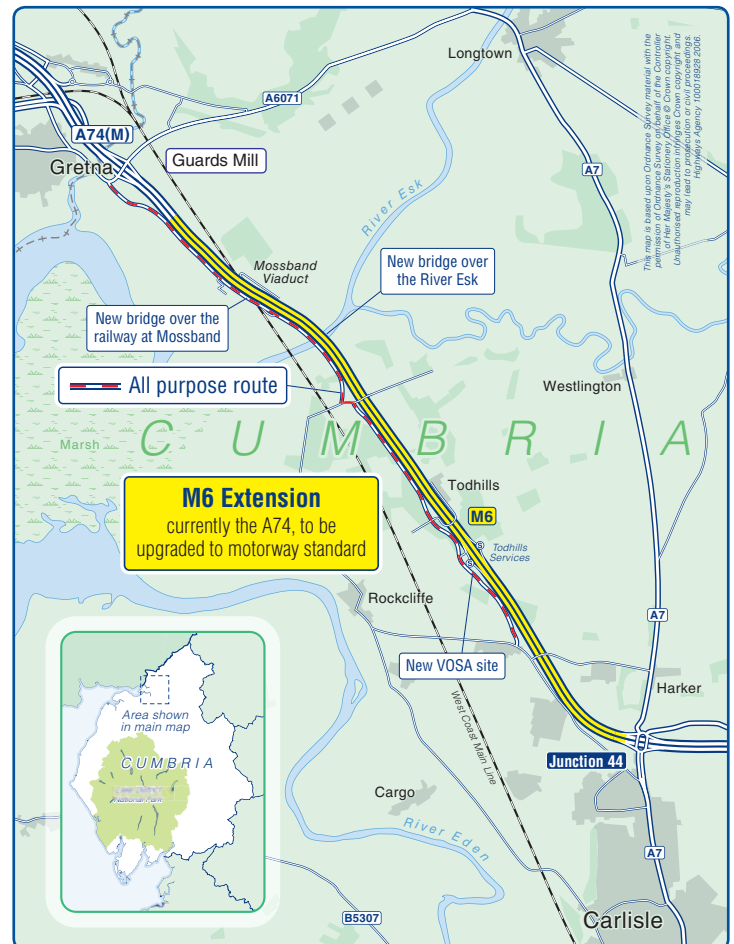
The M6 is being extended to the north – The current A74 will be replaced by a new motorway over a 6 mile (10 km) section. The new road will generally follow the line of the existing A74. It will go from Junction 44 of the M6 to the M74 just south of Gretna.

There will be a new all purpose route for local and non-motorway traffic – This will be to the west of the new motorway, running parallel to it and in places it will use existing roads. It will provide access to nearby villages and properties as slip roads to and from the existing A74 will be closed.

## New bridges

Our improvements include two new bridges that will be built at the following locations:

- Mossband - a bridge will be built over the West Coast Main Line railway, this will carry both carriageways of the new motorway and the all purpose route.
- Metal Bridge - a bridge crossing the River Esk alongside the existing A74 bridge



will be built to carry the southbound carriageway over the river.

## New site for VOSA

A new larger and better equipped site for the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) will be built a mile (1.5km) north of its current location. VOSA provides a range of licensing, testing and enforcement services to improve the roadworthiness standards of vehicles and ensures the compliance of operators and drivers with road traffic legislation.

## Best practice

At the Highways Agency, we are always looking to improve how we work with our contractors – in this case Carillion Construction and their design consultants, Capita Symonds.

To ensure that we benefited from their experience and skills, the contractors were involved at the preparation stages of the project. This is known as Early Contractor Involvement (ECI).

As a result of ECI much of the planning was done by both designer and contractor. This provided a more coordinated design benefiting from the contractors previous experience of road building. This ultimately provides a quality scheme that is easier to build and gives the best value for money.

## Protecting the environment

Great care has been taken to minimise the impact of the improved road on wildlife and the local environment. We have a team of environmental specialists on site to provide guidance and advice.

## Working safely

Our construction sites are well fenced and have signs that warn of the dangers. Please help us to work safely by noting all warnings and keeping children and pets away.

## Keeping journeys reliable

We always try to make sure that your journeys are as reliable as possible when we build new roads.

The A74 will have two lanes of traffic going both north and south during the day. Any lane closures that are needed will be done during the night and less busy periods.

We will have to make some lanes narrower and reduce speed limits to make it safer for motorists and our workforce close to the road. You will see cones, reflective posts and studs in the road which help keep traffic moving safely.

For real time traffic information:

**08700 660 115**

[www.highways.gov.uk/trafficinfo](http://www.highways.gov.uk/trafficinfo)

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

(Calls from BT landlines to 0870 numbers will cost no more than 8p per minute; mobile calls usually cost more)

For general Highways Agency information:

**08457 50 40 30**

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

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

(Calls from BT landlines to 0845 numbers will cost no more than 3p per minute; mobile calls usually cost more)

## Safe driving at roadworks

*Remember that tiredness can kill. Take regular breaks from driving.*



**During 2005, five workers were killed and 12 seriously injured in the course of their work on Highways Agency roads. This was the worst year since 1999.**

For the safety of all road users and roadworkers, drivers approaching roadworks are advised to:

- 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