highways england

M6 junction 19 improvement scheme

Next steps

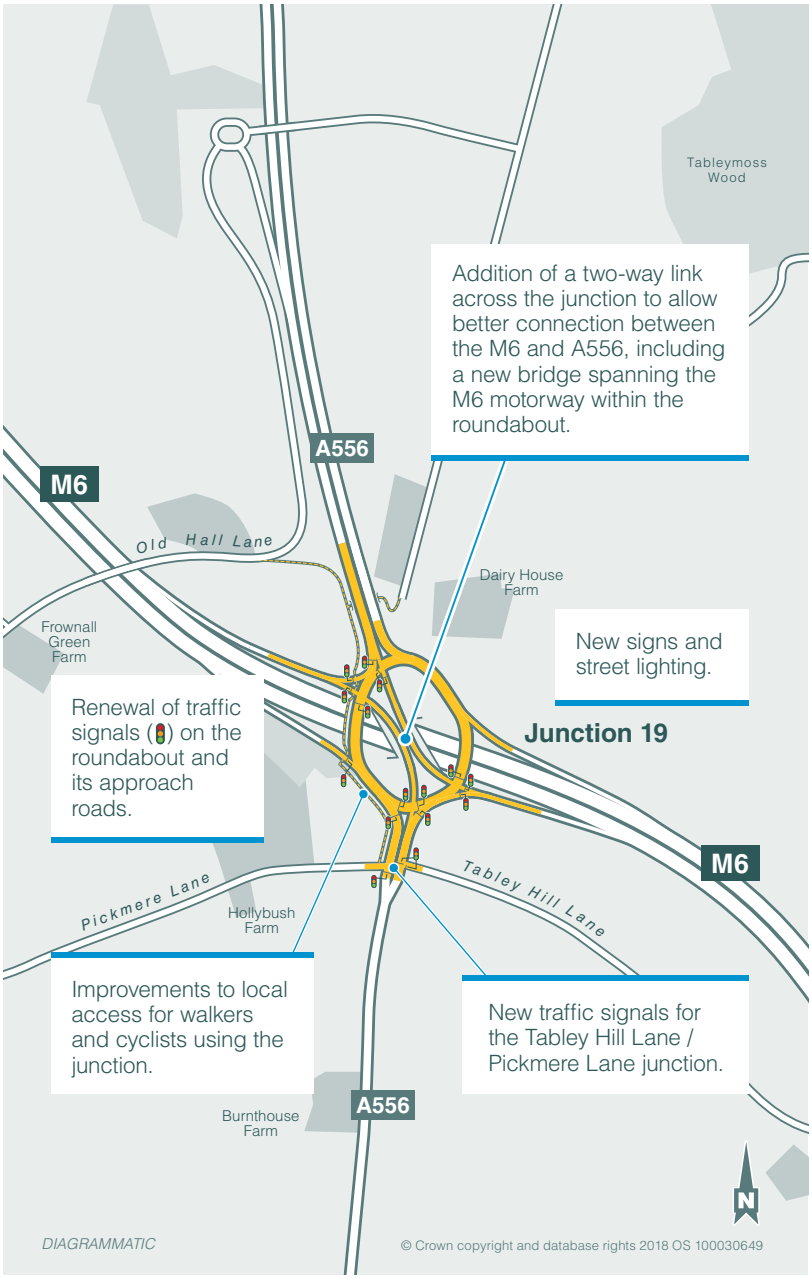


February 2019

About the scheme

Highways England's proposed scheme to improve junction 19 of the M6 is part of our continued programme of investment in the Strategic Road Network and will:

- Reduce congestion at the junction
- Improve safety for all road users
- Improve journey times
- Support regional economic growth
- Offer increased connectivity to key roads and areas
- Compliment other improvements to Manchester's southern access including improvements to the A556, the current M6 junction 16-19 smart motorway project and the proposed improvements to the M56 between junctions 6 and 8.



We listened to feedback provided during the consultation on options in summer 2016. Three-quarters of all respondents, including Cheshire East Council and Tabley Parish Council, supported the option subsequently chosen, which includes a new bridge across the middle of the roundabout where the M6 meets the A556.

Since the announcement of a 'preferred route' in 2017, we have developed the scheme design.
In May 2018, we ran two public information events explaining the design and inviting comments.

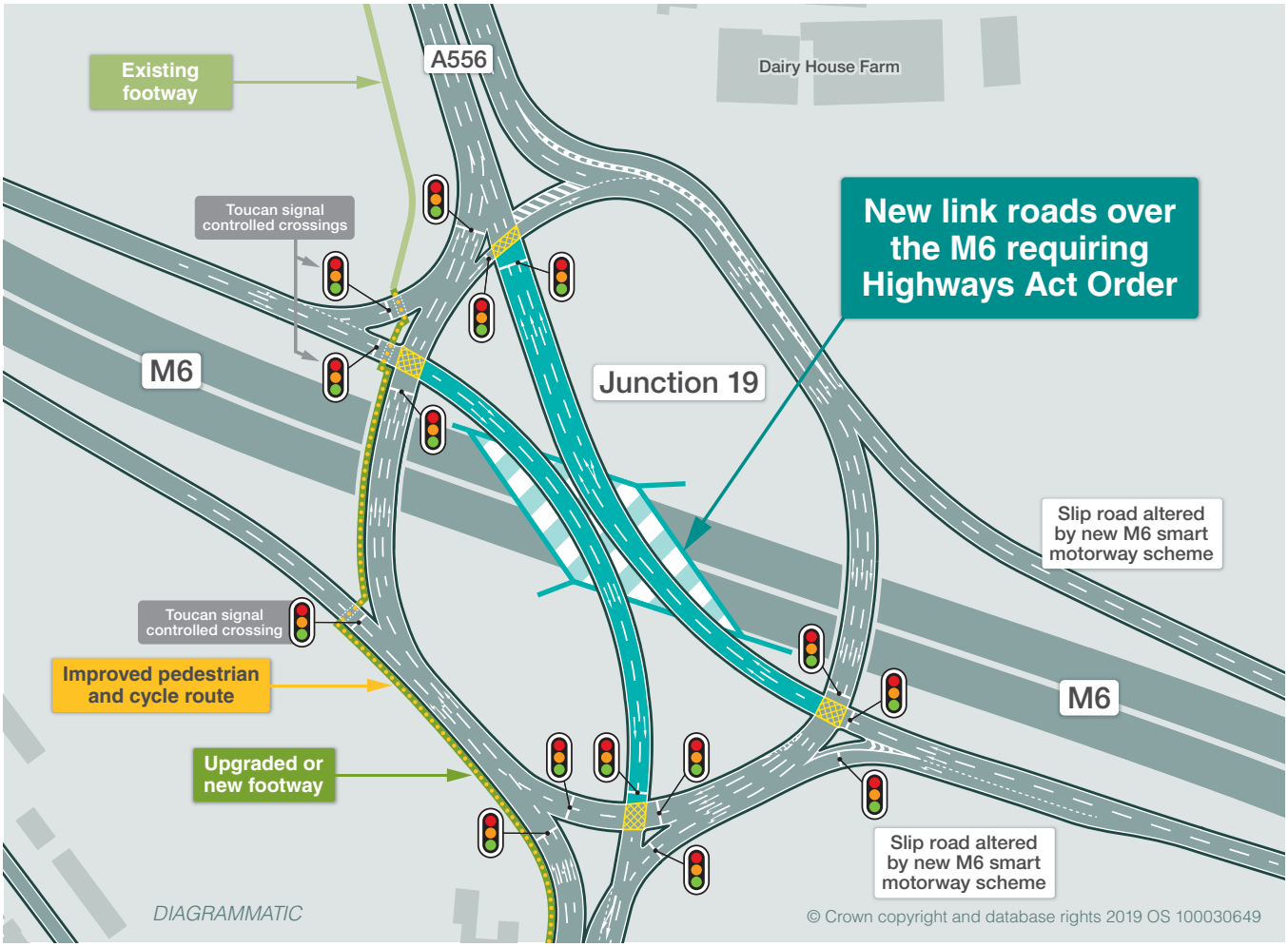
There are two main elements to this scheme:

- Improvements at junction 19 itself, including the construction of new link roads
- Improvements at the local authority junction immediately south of junction 19

We will soon ask the Secretary of State for Transport to make an Order under the Highways Act 1980 to build the new link roads.

We will work alongside Cheshire East Council to deliver the improvements at the junction of the A556 with Pickmere Lane and Tabley Hill Lane. Please note that this part of the scheme is **not** subject to the Orders process.

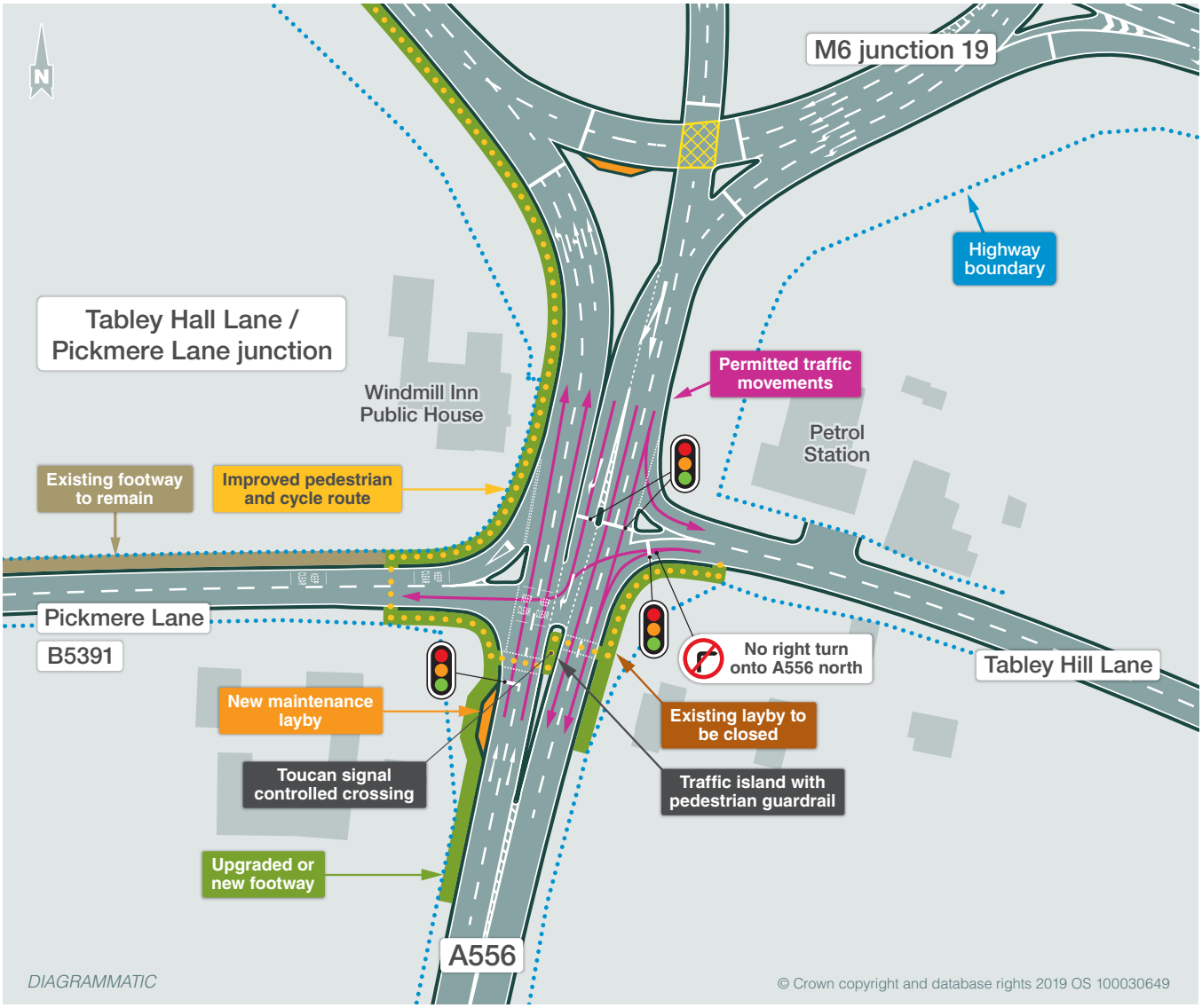
Improvements to Junction 19



Key features:

- Building of a new bridge across the centre of the junction, providing two new dedicated links, one from the M6 northbound to the A556 northbound and the other from the M6 southbound to the A556 southbound.
  The new link roads require an Order under the Highways Act 1980.
- Improvements to local access for pedestrians and cyclists with widening of the existing footway around junction 19 to create a shared use facility with links to existing routes to the north and south.
- New toucan crossings to help pedestrians and cyclists cross the junction.
- Renewal of traffic signals and road signs on the roundabout and its approach roads.

Improvements to local roads



Key features:

- New traffic signals to make turning into Pickmere Lane easier and safer.
- Improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, including Toucan crossings to help users cross the A556 at Pickmere Lane and Tabley Hill Lane safely.
- Temporary central reserve island made permanent.

Please note that improvements to local roads are **not** subject to the Highways Act Orders process. Any comments on this part of the scheme should be sent direct to the project team at the email address shown on page 7.

Environmental considerations

We have undertaken a range of surveys and assessments to establish current environmental conditions, and to identify any environmental issues that need to be considered, including:

- Air quality
- Noise and vibration
- Landscape and visual impact
- People and communities
- Cultural heritage
- Drainage and the water environment
- Geology and soils
- Biodiversity

Air quality

There are currently air quality concerns in the vicinity of junction 19. The anticipated change in vehicle traffic flows at the junction will help air quality to improve in the longer term close to the junction, although the impact is not predicted to be significant.

Noise and vibration

There is the potential for some additional noise and vibration caused by machinery during construction. Efforts will be made to keep this to a minimum and no significant effects are predicted. No significant increase or decrease in noise levels are expected when normal operation of the junction is resumed.

Landscape and visual impact

The most obvious visual change at junction 19 will be the addition of a new concrete bridge across the middle of the roundabout at the same level as the existing roundabout. There will be some temporary impact on the landscape during construction caused by machinery and by the clearance of vegetation within the existing roundabout. New planting will mean that there is no long-term significant impact, although there will be some slight adverse visual effects for a small number of residents, businesses and road users.

People and communities

Traffic management measures will be needed during construction, but efforts are already being made to keep these to a minimum. Overall, the proposed scheme is expected to reduce congestion, improve journey times, and reduce driver stress in the long-term.

Cultural heritage

There may be a temporary slight adverse impact on the surroundings of Over Tabley Hall and nearby farm buildings (all Grade II Listed Buildings) during construction. However, no long-term impacts are predicted to occur as replacement vegetation planting matures.

A statutory environmental statement was not required for this scheme because significant environmental effects are unlikely. This is documented in our Record of Determination notice, published on the project web page (see address on page 7 below). We have, though, developed measures to ensure the environment is protected. This includes protecting the water environment and developing a landscape planting plan for the scheme. Prior to construction we will re-check for protected species. We will continue to find ways to reduce environmental impacts as we construct the scheme.



Impacts on local community, cyclists and pedestrians

There is an existing footway/cycleway on the western side of the junction. It involves crossing the motorway entry slip roads without a controlled crossing. Surveys at the interchange indicate that current pedestrian and cycle usage is very low.



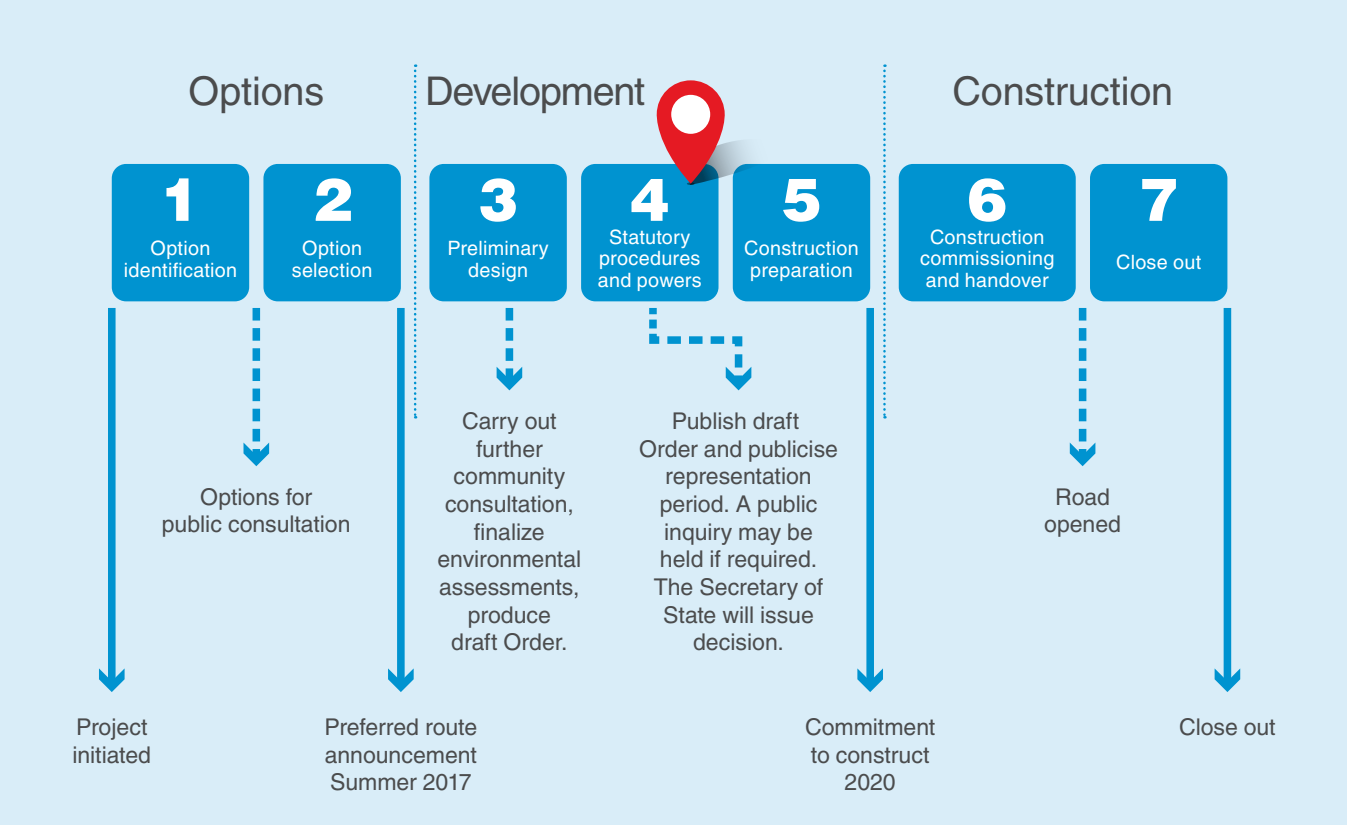


The proposed scheme will link into the new high-quality facilities provided as part of the A556 upgrade, and will create an attractive new route and improve connectivity across junction 19 by:

- Widening the existing footway to a shared use facility for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Installing new lighting.
- Providing signal-controlled crossing facilities on the slip roads and on the local authority junction south of junction 19.

What happens next?

The diagram below shows where we currently are within the three distinct phases of the project:



We will ask the Secretary of State to publish a draft Order under section 10 of the Highways Act 1980. If approved, this will enable us to start building the improvements by March 2020 at the latest. A notice will be published in the Knutsford Guardian and in the London Gazette advising of the Order's publication, and where it may be viewed

Our aim is for the draft Order to be published in February 2019. Copies of the draft Order and supporting documentation will be deposited at Knutsford Library, and will be posted on the scheme web pages at the same time. Statutory consultees and members of the public will have the opportunity to make representations about the Order for six weeks from the date it is published.

Further Information

For more information about the proposed scheme, please visit https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/m6-junction-19/. You can sign up to receive updates about the scheme at the same address.

You can also contact us via email: M6Junction19Improvement@highwaysengland.co.uk

Or by post: M6 J19 Project Team, Major Projects, Highways England, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester M1 2WD.

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

© Crown copyright 2019.
You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence: visit **www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/** write to the **Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU**, or email **psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk**.

Mapping (where present): © Crown copyright and database rights 2018 OS 100030649. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

This document is also available on our website at **www.highwaysengland.co.uk**
For an accessible version of this publication please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

If you have any enquiries about this publication email **info@highwaysengland.co.uk** or call **0300 123 5000***. Please quote the Highways England publications code **PR179/18**.

Highways England creative job number MCR18_0273

*Calls to 03 numbers cost no more than a national rate call to an 01 or 02 number and must count towards any inclusive minutes in the same way as 01 and 02 calls. These rules apply to calls from any type of line including mobile, BT, other fixed line or payphone. Calls may be recorded or monitored.

Printed on paper from well-managed forests and other controlled sources when issued directly by Highways England.

Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ
Highways England Company Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363