

## Frequently Asked Questions M20 J10a Improvement Scheme

### General

- **How much will it cost and is the funding committed?**

Currently approved budget is £104.4m and will be refined further as the project progresses.

The scheme will receive a total of £35.7m from third party sources. The parties include the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) Ashford Borough Council.

When is Traffic management put out on the M20? – May 2018 until open for traffic.

When is it open for traffic? – Autumn 2019.

When is the scheme finished? – Summer 2020.

### Traffic Management

- **What will the average time delay be to traffic leaving Ashford**

- This depends on the day of the week and time of day. At peak times, please expect on average a 5 minute delay on top of any usual traffic disruption.

- **Impact of neighbouring schemes - how is the project working with the projects scheme to ensure delay is minimised?**

- Coordination meetings and monthly traffic management meetings are being held to manage and monitor the impact of neighbouring schemes.
- Clash detection workshops are being held to manage and monitor the impact of neighbouring scheme.
- The various Highways England projects (M20 J3-5 Smart Motorway, Interim & Permanent Operation Stack Solutions and M20J10a) are collaborating to ensure they are appropriately co-ordinated. For example, we will put in place measures to help the public pass through the various works safely and smoothly. Similarly, we will ensure it is clear which works are which so the public that provide specific feedback if they wish to.
- We are also working with Kent County Council and the various utility companies to ensure that work on both the strategic and local road networks are properly co-ordinated. This will ensure that people can travel safely and reliably throughout the area during the works period.

### The Scheme –Road by Road

#### A2070

- **How do we ensure speed compliance on the A2070?**

- We have a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order in place that reduces the speed down to 40 mph.

- We will monitor speed on a regular basis and if needed will install VMS to advise drivers of their speeds.
- Monitor and review of Customer queries/complaints. If deemed necessary there may be options to ask the police to carry out spot checks and have a patrol unit on site for specific times and hours.

### **A20 Hythe Road**

- **How will the works along the A20 affect Pilgrims Hospice?**  
Every effort will be made to ensure that disruption to Pilgrims Hospice is minimal. Regular meetings are and will be held with Pilgrims Hospice, to ensure the scheme is supporting the hospice as much as possible. We have also installed a noise monitor to ensure we are effectively minimising the impact on the Hospice.

#### **What traffic disruptions will there be to the A20?**

- Vinci JV is constructing a temporary road to the North of the existing road and diverting traffic away from the new proposed link road construction works. This will greatly reduce any disruption to traffic travelling along the A20 Hythe Road which is due to be open during winter 2018.
- Temporary two-way traffic signals will be install to carry out works around Swatfield Culvert to carry out piling works and the install of a temporary footbridge. We hope to limit this to off peak daytime signals.
- The new footbridge over the M20 near Kingsford Street is a shared footpath/cycleway that will be ramped on both sides. Also the A20 temporary diversion is located to the north of the existing highway from the culvert to the east of Pilgrims Hospice to west of Bookham Lane. Once operational this diversion will be in place until 2019.
- The road surface of the A20 south of Junction 10 of the M20 been recently been improved, including repairs in the previous location of the central refuge.

### **M20 J10**

- **How many lanes will there be on the junction?**  
Combinations of 2 & 3.
- **Will the signage be improved on the junction?**  
The signage will be improved on the junction, as part of the scheme.
- **Will the junction be an improvement?**  
The junction will be modified so that the signing strategy and lane disciplines are consistent with the new Junction 10a and will therefore be an improvement over the current junction arrangement.
- **Why add another junction to the M20?**  
The existing M20 junction 10 south of Ashford suffers from congestion and delays, especially at peak periods, mainly due to the conflict between strategic and local traffic. Improved access to and from the motorway via the proposed junction 10a is seen as a key part of delivering further economic growth to the area as well as helping to address existing congestion problems.

- **Why Ashford?**

Ashford is a rapidly growing town in the heart of Kent and a major growth area for the South East, benefitting from its close links to the UK road network and northern Europe.
- **What makes this a good site for the new junction?**

We are proposing to increase the capacity of our roads to support and allow the delivery of residential and employment development either proposed or permitted in Ashford.
- **What is the scope of this scheme?**
- Safety will be improved by reducing congestion around the existing junction 10.
- Local transport facilities for non-motorised users will be improved.
- A new route for traffic into Ashford
- Environmental impact will be minimised, and where possible allow enhancements will be made to the environment
- Journey time reliability will be improved for 5,000 drivers that use this junction every hour

### **Barrey Road**

- **Will Barrey Road have signals?**

The Initial Road safety audit highlighted a safety issue. Detailed design has looked to address this safety concern and the proposed 'alternative' design is to adopt traffic signals.

Before formalising the junction design Highways England need to complete a Roads Safety Audit stage 2 which is standard practice under the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB). The outcome of the Road Safety Audit confirmed the use of signals at the junction and this is currently being designed.

The works are programmed to take place alongside the M20 Jct10a works and are likely to be installed in 2019 based on the current programme.
- **Will the signals on Barrey Road improve the safety issues?**

The introduction of traffic signals should improve the safety issues around the junction and improve traffic queuing to and from the junction.

### **Landscaping**

- **What will the scheme look like once it is completed?**

There will be a lot planting once the scheme has finished, please take a look at our scheme layout drawings from the public information exhibition boards and banners on our website.
- **Are we planting up to improve aesthetics and improve visual intrusions?**

Please be assured that during construction, a number of environmental mitigation measures will be undertaken to improve the current ecology and provide suitable habitats for protected species, this will also include planting a large number of trees.

- **Will any acoustic fencing be provided?**  
Yes environmental barriers are being proposed together with landscape bunds and these are shown on the landscape and fencing plans and reflect the assessments made in the Environmental Statement.
- **Balancing ponds – What are they. Will they be left to stagnate?**  
A balancing pond is used as part of a drainage system used to control flooding by temporarily storing storm water and releasing this slowly back into the local drainage network. The balancing ponds will be maintained and access to the ponds will be secured by appropriate fencing to avoid trespassing.

## Ecology

- **Why have so many trees been removed?**  
In order to construct the scheme a number of trees have to be removed. We have worked together with environmental specialists and ecologists to carefully consider the number of trees and foliage that will need to be removed.
- **Why have so many birds' habitats been removed?**  
Minimal disruption has been caused to bird habitats, due to Fingertip searches are conducted prior to scrub clearance to ensure that wildlife are not harmed during the works. Site clearance is also carried out before bird nesting season, to ensure that we do not disturb them.

## Brexit

- **Will Brexit have an impact on the scheme?**
- The UK leaves the EU on 29 March 2019. Highways England has been asked to manage any traffic impacts felt in Kent in the immediate period after leaving. We are currently working up our proposals, and will share them with the public as soon as we are able. The intention is that any traffic management proposals will not hinder the works required to complete the new M20J10a junction, and enable all those who want to be on the M20 to stay on the M20.

## Communication

- **How can I receive updates about the scheme?**  
Sign up for the newsletter, twitter, highways England website ([www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m20j10a](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m20j10a)).
- **How can I contact the scheme?**  
Contact the Customer Contact Centre – 0300 123 5000 or the scheme mailbox ([m20j10aimprovements@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:m20j10aimprovements@highwaysengland.co.uk)).