

## M5 junctions 4a to 6 smart motorway

Newsletter issue 15, March 2017



### Update of works

Welcome to your latest smart motorway newsletter.

We are now close to completing the smart motorway works between junctions 4a and 5, where we have now resurfaced the motorway using new low noise surfacing across all lanes of the motorway in this section. The narrow lanes have been removed and the left hand lane, new lane 1, remained coned off for a short time whilst we completed installation and commenced testing of the new electronic systems.

### Opening of phase 1 - junctions 4a to 5

The M5 is a strategic route that carries between 50,000 and 75,000 vehicles per day between the south west and the Midlands. As part of our continued investment on this key strategic route, we will be opening the first phase of the smart motorway to traffic at speeds up to 70 mph between junctions 4a (Bromsgrove) to junction 5 (Droitwich Spa) on 12 April, as the scheme nears the final stages.

The first phase is currently running all four lanes at 50 mph while testing of the technology takes place and will fully open as a smart motorway, with speeds up to 70 mph on 12 April. The second phase between Droitwich Spa and Worcester (junctions 5 to 6) will continue to have narrow lanes in place, while the last stage of works are completed, and is set to open in early June 2017 subject to successful testing.

There will be a need for some speed restrictions and overnight closures while the testing phase continues and we remove cones and prepare for the opening of the smart motorway, we will keep all closures to a minimum.

Janice Allen, Highways England's Project Manager, said "We recognise the impact that these important works have had on our local residents and communities and we very much

appreciate your patience and understanding as we have completed a range of operations, especially during necessary night time closures.



**Final white lining on the M5 between junctions 4a and 5**

“Our works on the section of the scheme between junctions 5 and 6 continue to make good progress. Resurfacing of this section is nearing completion and following successful testing and commissioning of new systems, we remain on course to open this section in early June.”

A programme of the remaining works can be found on the last page.

## How to Drive on a Smart Motorway

As we approach completion of the smart motorway between junctions 4a and 6 of the M5, we are turning attention towards driver education. A national Highways England campaign is currently ongoing focusing on driver education of smart motorways. More information about how to drive on a smart motorway can be found on the below website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-drive-on-a-smart-motorway>

## Works in your Area

In our last two newsletters we have described upcoming works on the M5 between junctions 1 and 2 at Oldbury viaduct. We can confirm that following the preparatory works the main works will start after Easter.

For further details of these works you should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000 or visit <http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/m5-junction-1-to-2-oldbury-viaduct/>.

We will also let you have more details of the programme for improvement works to junction 6 of the M5 when this information is available.

## Journey Planning

For real time updates on closures, roadworks and traffic levels on England's motorway and major roads network you can visit our website [www.highways.gov.uk/m5-junctions-4a-to-6](http://www.highways.gov.uk/m5-junctions-4a-to-6) where you can find updated details of forthcoming closures on our new 'roadworks' tab.

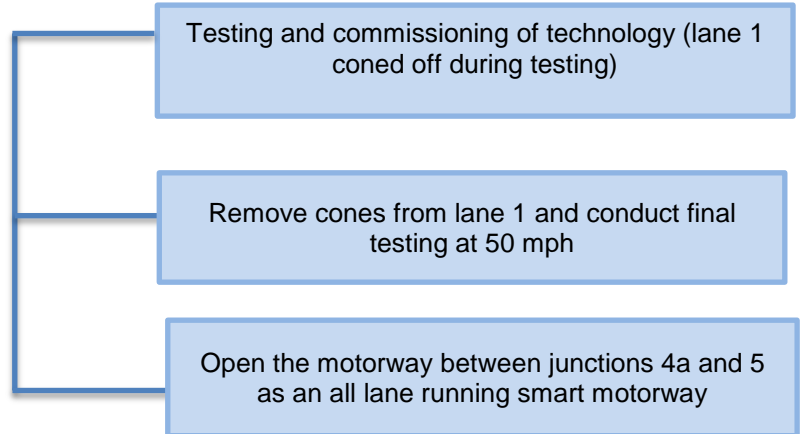
The roadworks tab shows any planned roadworks for the next 7 days, within a 2 mile radius of the project. You can also use the roadworks search page to create your own specified search. In addition, you can find live traffic information services via Traffic England.

## Timeline of Planned Events



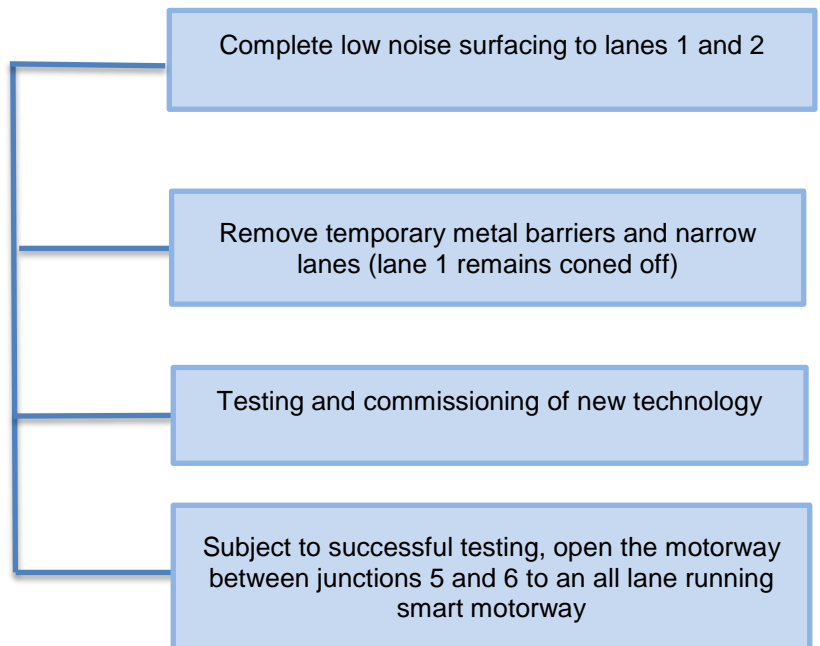
### Junction 4a to junction 5

April 2017



### Junction 5 to junction 6

April 2017 to May 2017



To find out more about the M5 junctions 4a to 6 smart motorway

Contact: Nick Cuming - Stakeholder manager on 07826 868 990

or call: 0300 123 5000

Visit our website: <http://www.highways.gov.uk/m5-junctions-4a-to-6>.

Email: [M5J4a-6SmartMotorway@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:M5J4a-6SmartMotorway@highwaysengland.co.uk)