

Our ref: M1 junctions 23a to 25

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Dear Sir/Madam,

M1 junction 23a to junction 25 smart motorway project – scheme opening update

I am writing to provide you with an update regarding the opening of the M1 junctions 23a to 25 smart motorway scheme, which will be opening in two phases from December.

The first phase successfully took place on 13 December 2018 with the removal of traffic management and speed restrictions between junctions 23a and the approach to junction 24.

This section of the M1 is now operating as a controlled motorway, which includes four lanes and a hard shoulder, with the introduction of variable mandatory speed limits to manage the flow of traffic, reducing frustrating “stop-start” traffic conditions. The new technology installed will also give drivers better information to help with their journeys, while maintaining high levels of safety.

The scheme has also introduced new CCTV cameras and electronic information signs and signals on gantries, which will show the variable mandatory speed limits and manage traffic flow and incidents.

As part of this phase, we also plan to open the fourth lane between junctions 24 and 25 at a reduced speed limit of 50mph on 20 December 2018, to ensure we have provided the maximum capacity and are delivering the best experience possible for our customers ahead of the festive period.

The second phase will see the completion of the testing and commissioning of the newly installed signs and signals between junctions 24 and 25, which is crucial to ensuring the technology is operating reliably.

In order to complete this work safely, temporary speed restrictions will remain in place between junctions 24 and 25 until March 2019, with the newly constructed emergency areas available for use. We will also continue operating our free recovery service within the all lane running section until the scheme is fully complete in the new year for the safety of our road users.

The remaining works will be carried out in the new year under overnight lane and full carriageway closures when the road is at its quietest, in order to keep disruption to a minimum.

If you have any questions, or if you would like any further information about the scheme, please contact the project team at M1.J23a-25@highwaysengland.co.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Dave Cooke

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