
A228/M20 Junction 4 - Eastern Overbridge Widening

To: **Tonbridge & Malling Joint Transportation Board - 7 June 2016**

Main Portfolio Area: **Growth, Environment & Transport**

By: **Roger Wilkin, Director of- Highways & Transportation**

Classification: **For Information**

Ward: **West Malling & Leybourne, and Downs & Mereworth**
Division: **Malling North**

Summary: **Progress report on M20 Junction 4 overbridge widening scheme**

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Board will be aware of the scheme to widen the eastern bridge of M20 Junction 4 from previous reports and attendance by officers at meetings of this Board.

1.2 This report gives a further update following the start of construction that will be supplemented by a verbal update at the meeting to reflect the fact that reports are produced sometime in advance of meetings.

2.0 Works

2.1 Works to date

Traffic management was set up over the weekend of 2 and 3 April. The first week of April was still half term for some schools and hence traffic flows were lower than normal and this gave drivers the opportunity to adjust to the changed situation.

The site compound and offices have been set up and the site team established on site.

Site clearance completed which included removing two tall light columns that served the junction but were located behind the motorway hard shoulder.

Motorway communications cables have been temporarily diverted away from the bridge works.

The existing parapet and paved margin has been removed and preliminary works carried out prior to demolition.

Demolition of the existing cantilever parapet edge to the existing bridge has started – about half of which has been saw cut and lifted out in segments. High pressure water jetting is being use to remove the remaining concrete without damaging the steel reinforcement which needs to be retained to connect to the widened bridge.

Piling for the new bridge foundation has started.

2.2 Future Works Programme

The indicative programme for completing key elements of the work is as follows:

New bridge abutments	end of July
Install bearings for new bridge	early August
Lift in bridge beams	end of July
Construct concrete deck	end of August
Construct new parapet	mid September
New surfacing	end of October
Reinstate motorway communications	early November
Install signals and finishing works	early November
Scheme complete	mid November

The major milestone activity will be the delivery and lifting in of the new bridge beams that will take place over weekend overnight closures of the motorway - currently planned for 30 July. During motorway closures traffic is taken around the works by using the slip roads.

2.3 Other Matters

The eastern bridge was closed overnight briefly in May to repair a collapsed gully.

Discussions are being held with maintenance colleagues and it is likely that advantage will be taken of our site presence to resurface the western overbridge after the eastern bridge widening is completed.

The temporary closure of the right turn out of Castle Way continues to be monitored with the possibility, following local engagement and consideration by this Board, to make this permanent.

3.0 Public Relations

There was an inevitable initial reaction to the inconvenience being caused by the traffic management. Comments to the project e mail in box have settled down and there is currently only occasional contact. Everybody is responded to and a key aspect is explaining that the scheme is primarily aiming to mitigate the traffic impacts of the major developments along the Medway Valley and is not intended to provide a wider ranging improvement.

Many people have asked for 'yellow boxes' as a way of reducing congestion. However, they would need to be large when following national design guidance and in those circumstances they can have a counter effect on helping capacity and current legislation also does not allow camera enforcement. The comments are

understandable and as part of post scheme monitoring we will keep this aspect under review.

A further Newsletter (No 3) is proposed to be distributed in June and consideration is being given to a manned exhibition in Leybourne to give local people the opportunity to understand more about the works taking place.

3.0 Financial

3.1 The estimated cost of the scheme is £4.80m and is being delivered within the banked S106 contribution and Local Growth Funding allocated to the scheme.

4.0 Legal implications

4.1 This Report is for information only and hence there are no legal implications for the Board.

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 A good start has been made on the construction contract.

6.0 Recommendations

For Information

Future Meeting if applicable: As necessary but none planned at present	Date:
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Appendices

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