

# **M1 slip roads at J2 Safety Improvement**

## **Statutory Instrument Consultation Document**

**The introduction of a 50mph permanent speed limit**

**August 2020**

# Summary of the consultation

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<b>Topic of this consultation</b>	Introduction of a 50mph permanent speed limit on the M1 southbound off-slip road and northbound on-slip road at junction 2.
<b>Scope of this consultation</b>	We are keen to have your comments on the introduction of a 50mph permanent speed limit on the M1 at J2. We specifically would like to hear how the proposal could affect you, your organisation or those you represent. It is important to note that this is not a consultation on the actual policy of using permanent speed limits. We are therefore seeking your views on the proposal set out within this document.
<b>Geographical scope</b>	M1 southbound off-slip road and & northbound on-slip road at junction 2

## General Information

<b>To</b>	The consultation is aimed at any affected stakeholder groups or individuals.
<b>Body/bodies responsible for the consultation</b>	Highways England Company Limited (HECL)
<b>Duration</b>	The consultation will last for a period of four weeks commencing on 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2020. The consultation will close on 05 <sup>th</sup> October 2020. Please ensure responses arrive no later than the closing date.
<b>Enquiries</b>	<b>Allan Prasad</b> Project Manager Highways England Bridge House 1 Walnut Tree Close Guildford GU1 4LZ  Allan.Prasad@highwaysengland.co.uk
<b>How to respond</b>	Please respond to the consultation through our online survey. A link to the survey can be located at the following scheme website address:  <a href="https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m1-junction-2-statutory-instrument-consultation">https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m1-junction-2-statutory-instrument-consultation</a>  When responding, please state whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. If responding on behalf of a larger organisation, please make it clear what organisation you represent and, where applicable, how the views of members were gathered.

<p><b>Additional ways to become involved</b></p>	<p>You can complete the consultation response form at Appendix B and send it to:</p> <p><b>Allan Prasad</b>  Project Manager  Highways England  Bridge House  1 Walnut Tree Close  Guildford  GU1 4LZ</p> <p>Allan.Prasad@highwaysengland.co.uk</p>
<p><b>After the consultation</b></p>	<p>All responses received from consultees within the consultation period will be considered and responded to as necessary. Following the consultation, a response to consultation report will be made available on the Highways England website. The report will provide an analysis of responses received and the Highways England response.</p> <p>Subject to results of the consultation, we envisage that the 50mph speed limit would be in place permanently for reasons of safety.</p>
<p><b>Compliance with the Government's Consultation principles</b></p>	<p>The consultation complies with the Government's Consultation Principles.</p>
<p><b>Getting to this stage</b></p>	<p>A temporary 50mph speed limit is currently in place on the northbound on-slip road and the southbound off-slip road at junction 2 of the M1. This has been a highways scheme on a dangerous bend, when a temporary speed limit reduction was in force via traffic signs. The speed restriction has been deemed necessary due to the several years accident figures which were analysed to justify a road safety scheme. Hence without such a speed restriction there is a likelihood of danger to the public. Highways England is now proposing that the 50mph speed limit is made permanent by way of regulations made by statutory instrument.</p>

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# Executive Summary

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This consultation provides an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the proposal to introduce, by way of Regulations, a permanent 50mph speed limit at junction 2 of the M1 motorway on the southbound off-slip road and the northbound on-slip road. The 50mph speed limit will, if approved, be set permanently and will be clearly displayed by signs on both sides of the carriageway indicating where it starts. There will also be signs which repeat this speed limit, and which indicate where it ends.

Once in force, the relevant Regulations will prohibit driving at a speed exceeding 50mph on the two slip roads.

## **Benefits of a 50mph speed limit**

By introducing the proposed 50mph speed limit the intention is that:

- The likelihood of accidents on the two slip roads will be reduced.
- Awareness of the existing road layout will be improved for the prevention of road traffic incidents where the national speed limit is inappropriate and dangerous.
- Reducing the speed limit will have a positive impact on the incidence and severity of accidents.

We welcome comments specifically on how the proposal could affect you, your organisation or those you represent.

# 1. How we are conducting the consultation

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## 1.1. What is this consultation about?

We are consulting on the proposed implementation of a 50mph speed limit at junction 2 of the M1 on the southbound off-slip road and the northbound on-slip road.

## 1.2. Why do we need a 50mph speed limit?

1. The M1 motorway is a strategic route for local, regional and international traffic and forms part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in England. The M1 motorway connects London to Leeds, and stretches 193.6 miles in length. It opened in 1959 as the UK's first motorway. The motorway is part of the unsigned European route E13.

This has been a highways scheme on a dangerous bend, when a temporary speed limit reduction was in force via traffic signs. The speed restriction has been deemed necessary due to the several years accident figures which were analysed to justify a road safety scheme. The proposal is to reduce the vehicular speed around the bend by implementing a mandatory speed limit of 50 mph along the entire North and South-bound slip roads. This will happen by removing the existing "Max Speed" signs and replacing them with 50 mph signs, as well as installing additional 50 mph signs on existing lighting columns. This reduces the need to install multiple different signs, changing the speed limit from 70mph to 30mph to 50mph within under a kilometre. It is also not safe to suddenly introduce a speed reduction from 70 mph to 30 mph.

The 50mph speed limit is part of Highways England's programme to improve safety on the SRN. It is expected that the 50mph speed limit will:

- Reduce the likelihood of accidents at the M1 s/b off-slip & n/b on-slip at junction 2 carriageway.
- Increase awareness of the existing road layout for the prevention of road traffic incidents where the national speed limit is inappropriate and dangerous.

The use of a 50mph speed limit is essential to achieving the objectives above.

## 1.3. Comments on the introduction of a 50mph speed limit

We would like to encourage any organisations, businesses or individuals affected by the proposal to contact Highways England and communicate their views.

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, it would be helpful if you could make this clear in your reply. Please also indicate the nature of the organisation; how many individuals' views are included in the response and the ways in which these views were gathered.

## 1.4. Sending your consultation response

You can respond to the consultation by completing our online survey. A link to the survey can be found on the project webpage at:

<https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m1-junction-2-statutory-instrument-consultation>

Alternatively, you can complete the consultation response form located at Appendix B and return it to us by email or by post to the following addresses. Please ensure that your response reaches us by **5th October 2020**

**Email:** Allan.Prasad@highwaysengland.co.uk

**Post: Allan Prasad**  
Project Manager  
Highways England  
Bridge House  
1 Walnut Tree Close  
Guildford  
GU1 4LZ

## 1.5. How we will act on your responses

All responses received from consultees within the consultation period will be considered and responded to as necessary. Following the consultation, a 'Response to Consultation' report will be made available on the Highways England website. The report will provide an analysis of responses received and the Highways England response.

## 1.6. Data Protection Statement

Under the General Data Protection Regulation Highways England is required to explain to consultees, stakeholders and customers how their personal data will be used and stored.

Highways England is permitted to collect personal data in carrying out its public functions, including the development of proposed road schemes. The duty to consult before making a Statutory Instrument to introduce a 50mph speed limit is provided by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Personal data collected in the context of this consultation will be processed and retained by Highways England and its appointed contractors until the speed limit is introduced.

Under the GDPR you have the following rights:

1. Right of access to the data (Subject Access Request);
2. Right for the rectification of errors;
3. Right to erasure of personal data – this is not an absolute right under the legislation;
4. Right to restrict processing or to object to processing, and;
5. Right to data portability.

If, at any point, Highways England plans to process the personal data we hold for a purpose other than that for which it was originally collected, we will provide you with information about what that other purpose is: for example, if we are requested to release information about consultation responses under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Highways England will contact you prior to any further processing taking place to explain about that processing and to provide any relevant further information about the rights referred to above, including the right to object to that further processing.

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority, the Information Commissioner's Office.

If you'd like more information about how we manage data, or a copy of our privacy notice, please contact [DataProtectionAdvice@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:DataProtectionAdvice@highwaysengland.co.uk).

## 1.7. Further information

To receive further information on the proposed 50mph speed limit you can contact the project team in writing at:

**Allan Prasad**  
Project Manager  
Highways England  
Bridge House  
1 Walnut Tree Close  
Guildford  
GU1 4LZ

**Or by email:** [Allan.Prasad@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:Allan.Prasad@highwaysengland.co.uk)

**Alternatively, visit the Highways England website:**

<https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m1-junction-2-statutory-instrument-consultation>

## 1.8. Government consultation principles

We are conducting this consultation in accordance with the Government's Consultation Principles, which are listed below.

- Consultations should be clear and concise
- Consultations should have a purpose
- Consultations should be informative
- Consultations are only part of a process of engagement
- Consultations should last for a proportionate amount of time
- Consultations should be targeted
- Consultations should take account of the groups being consulted
- Consultations should be agreed before publication
- Consultation should facilitate scrutiny
- Government responses to consultations should be published in a timely fashion
- Consultation exercises should not generally be launched during local or national election periods

If you have reason to believe this consultation document does not comply with these Consultation Principles, please write to our consultation co-ordinator at the address below, setting out the areas where you believe this consultation does not meet the principles:

**Andy Johnson**  
Highways England  
The Cube  
199 Wharfside Street  
Birmingham  
B1 1RN

Email: [andy.johnson@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:andy.johnson@highwaysengland.co.uk)

Further information about the Consultation Principles can be found on the GOV.UK website:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>

## 2. Legislative changes

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### 2.1. Legislative changes for the implementation of a 50mph speed limit

Subject to the outcome of the consultation, Regulations will need to be made under section 17(2) and (3) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ('the 1984 Act') for the implementation of a 50mph speed limit at junction 2 of the M1 on the southbound off-slip road and the northbound o-slip road.

The Regulations would introduce a 50mph maximum speed limit at junction 2 of the M1. The point where the 50mph speed limit begins and ends would be clearly indicated to drivers using appropriate signs. The specific sections of road governed by the Regulations will be set out in the Regulations.

The relevant legislative power in the 1984 Act permits the making of Regulations that regulate the way, and the conditions subject to which, motorways may be used by traffic authorised to use such motorways.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation, the proposed Regulations when made will apply only in relation to these sections of the M1 and this consultation is solely about the introduction of a 50mph speed limit on these sections of road.

## 3. Extent and enforcement of the proposed 50mph speed limit

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### 3.1. Proposed extent of the 50mph speed limit



Fig 3a

A map showing the approximate extent of the 50mph speed limit is shown in **Figure 3a**.

### 3.2. Enforcement

Obtaining an acceptable level of compliance with a 50mph speed limit (displayed on post mounted static sign) is key to the successful and safe operation of the speed limit. No new offences or sanctions will be introduced because of the proposed Regulations.

Enforcement of a 50mph speed limits would be carried out using a combination of the signs, and traditional enforcement by the police.

## **4. Appendices**

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**Appendix A – Frequently asked questions**

**Appendix B – Consultation response form**

## Appendix A: Frequently asked questions

**Q. What is meant by safety improvement scheme?**

**A.** This safety improvement scheme is to introduce a 50mph permanent speed limit and installing associated speed limit sign.

**Q. What is happening?**

**A.** The proposal is? to reduce the vehicular speed around the bend by implementing a mandatory speed limit of 50 mph along the entire North and South-bound slip roads. This will happen? be done? by removing the existing “Max Speed” signs and replacing them with 50 mph signs, as well as installing additional 50 mph signs on existing lighting columns, in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual. This reduces the need to install multiple different signs, and changing the speed limit from 70mph to 30mph to 50mph within under a kilometre. “see map above.

To prevent accidents and improve safety we are proposing to introduce a permanent 50mph speed limit on this section of road and install associated speed limit signs. In addition, other new upright signs and road markings will be put in place to further improve safety and driver awareness.

**Q. Why is Highways England consulting?**

**A.** This consultation will provide an opportunity for interested parties and individuals to comment on the legislative changes required for the implementation of a permanent 50mph mandatory speed limit on these sections of the M1 which are currently subject to a temporary 50mph speed limit.

**Q. Who can respond to this?**

**A.** This consultation is available for anyone to respond to, including organisations that would be affected by the implementation of a permanent 50mph mandatory speed limit. The consultation is aimed at any affected stakeholder groups.

**Q. Is the introduction of a permanent 50mph mandatory speed limit likely to be effective?**

**A.** The introduction of a permanent 50mph mandatory speed limit on section of the M1 will improve traffic flows resulting in more reliable journey times and safety.

**Q. When is the permanent 50mph speed limit likely to become mandatory?**

**A.** We are hoping to implement the permanent 50mph mandatory speed limit this Autumn 2020.

**Q. What is the point of the consultation?**

**A.** Highways England is committed to effective consultation and complies with the Government’s Consultation Principles. Effective consultation with affected stakeholders brings to light valuable information which we can use to design effective solutions and mitigate any concerns.

Following the consultation period, issues raised will be responded to where appropriate and a summary report will be compiled providing an analysis of the responses and justification for the selected option.

**Q. How are you going to enforce the speed limit?**

**A.** Fixed speed limits are traditionally enforced by the Police.

## Appendix B: Consultation response form

Project Name: M1 southbound off-slip road and northbound on-slip road at junction 2 . - Safety Improvement

You can provide your views by completing our online survey. A link to the survey can be found on the scheme webpage at:

<https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m1-junction-2-statutory-instrument-consultation>

If you would prefer to submit your response in writing, please complete the below response form and return to us by post or by email to the addresses below. Please ensure your response reaches us by **5th October 2020**

**Allan Prasad**  
Project Manager  
Highways England  
Bridge House  
1 Walnut Tree Close  
Guildford  
GU1 4LZ

**Or by email:** Allan.Prasad@highwaysengland.co.uk

### Part 1: Information about you

Completion of this section is optional but helps with our analysis of results. A note at the end of this form explains that we may be obliged to release this information if asked to do so.

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Company Name or Organisation (if applicable)</b>	

<b>Please tick one box from the list below that best describes you/your company or organisation.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small to Medium Enterprise (up to 50 employees)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Large Company
<input type="checkbox"/>	Representative Organisation

	Trade Union
	Interest Group
	Local Government
	Central Government
	Police
	Member of the public
	Other (please describe):

**If you are responding on behalf of an organisation or interest group, how many members do you have and how did you obtain the views of your members:**

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**Part 2: Your Comments**

<b>Q1. Do you consider that the proposed permanent 50mph mandatory speed limit on the M1 southbound off-slip road and northbound on-slip road at junction 2 will lead to an improvement in safety and? travelling conditions on this section of motorway? (please tick yes or no in the boxes)</b>	Yes	
	No	
<b>Please provide any comments below.</b>		

<b>Q2. Are there any aspects of the proposed permanent 50mph mandatory speed limit which give you concerns?</b>	Yes	
	No	

**Please provide any comments below.**

**Q3. Are there any additional comments you would like to make about the proposed permanent 50mph mandatory speed limit?**

**Yes**

**No**

**Please provide any comments below.**

### **Data Protection Statement**

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Highways England is permitted to collect personal data in carrying out our public functions, including the development of proposed road schemes. The duty to consult on introducing a Statutory Instrument to introduce a fixed speed limit is provided by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

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consultation responses under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Highways England will contact you prior to any further processing taking place to explain about that processing and to provide any relevant further information about the rights referred to above, including the right to object to that further processing.

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority, the Information Commissioner's Office.

If you'd like more information about how we manage data, or a copy of our privacy notice, please contact [DataProtectionAdvice@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:DataProtectionAdvice@highwaysengland.co.uk).

