

M6

Upgrade to smart motorway

Junctions 2 to 4



Junctions 2 to 4

We are improving the busy 13.6 miles (22km) stretch of the M6 between junction 2 at Coventry and junction 4 near Coleshill by upgrading it to an all lane running (ALR) smart motorway.

Advance works are scheduled to begin in early 2018 with work on the main scheme starting in March 2018. It is expected to open by the end of March 2020.

This means there will be:

- An additional lane for traffic increasing capacity to reduce congestion.
- More technology on the road to manage incidents.
- More reliable journeys.



About smart motorways

Smart motorways are a technology driven approach to the use of our motorways, increasing capacity and relieving congestion while maintaining safety. Smart motorways help make journey times more reliable.

Public information exhibitions

You can find out more about the plans for junctions 2 to 4 at these exhibitions. The Highways England project team will be available to discuss the scheme and answer your questions.

Exhibition venues

Maxstoke Village Hall
Church Lane, Maxstoke
Birmingham, West Midlands
B46 2QN

- Friday 15 December
2pm – 7pm
- Saturday 16 December
10am – 4pm

Novotel Coventry M6/J3
Wilsons Lane
Coventry
CV6 6HL

- Friday 12 January
11am – 7pm
- Saturday 13 January
10am – 4pm

It is important for drivers to understand the different types of technology and features used on smart motorways

Where will this section of smart motorway be?

Junctions 4 and 3a

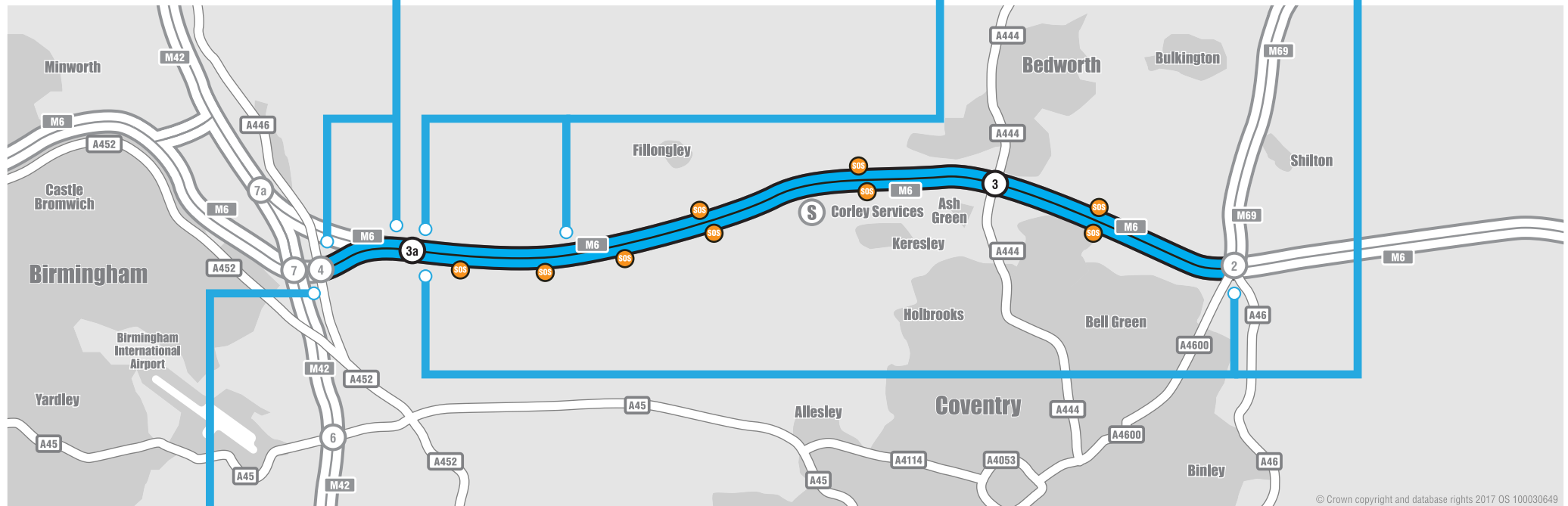
Between junctions 4 and 3a, the motorway will have three lanes and a hard shoulder. This is designed to tie in with the existing smart motorway between junctions 5 and 8 of the M6.

Converting the climbing lane

The existing eastbound climbing lane between junctions 3a and 3 will be converted to a permanent traffic lane and the hard shoulder will be retained throughout this length.

All lane running

The motorway will have 4 lanes for most of this section of road. We will do this by converting the hard shoulder into a driving lane. Hard shoulders will remain between junctions 2 and 3.



Improvements to junction 4

Junction 4 needs to be improved to accommodate the traffic that will be travelling to the proposed HS2 station Birmingham Interchange. The junction will be redesigned to have three and in places four lanes.

Emergency areas

There will be 9 new high visibility emergency areas within the M6 junction 2 to 4 smart motorway scheme. Motorway service areas and hard shoulders on slip roads can also be used. The emergency areas are positioned approximately where shown with this symbol SOS.

This smart motorway will be built between junction 2 near Coventry and junction 4 at Coleshill. We also plan to upgrade the M6 to a smart motorway between junctions 13 and 15 near Stafford. To find out more, visit www.highways.gov.uk/M6j13to15

What smart motorways include

Variable mandatory speed limits

- Speed limits will be set to smooth traffic flows.
- The limits will be clearly displayed on overhead gantries and roadside signs.
- Signs will be used to inform drivers of conditions on the network and when variable speed limits are in place.

Emergency roadside telephones

- There will be an emergency telephone in each emergency area.
- This will connect you to Highways England's Regional Control Centres and will pinpoint your location.

All lane running

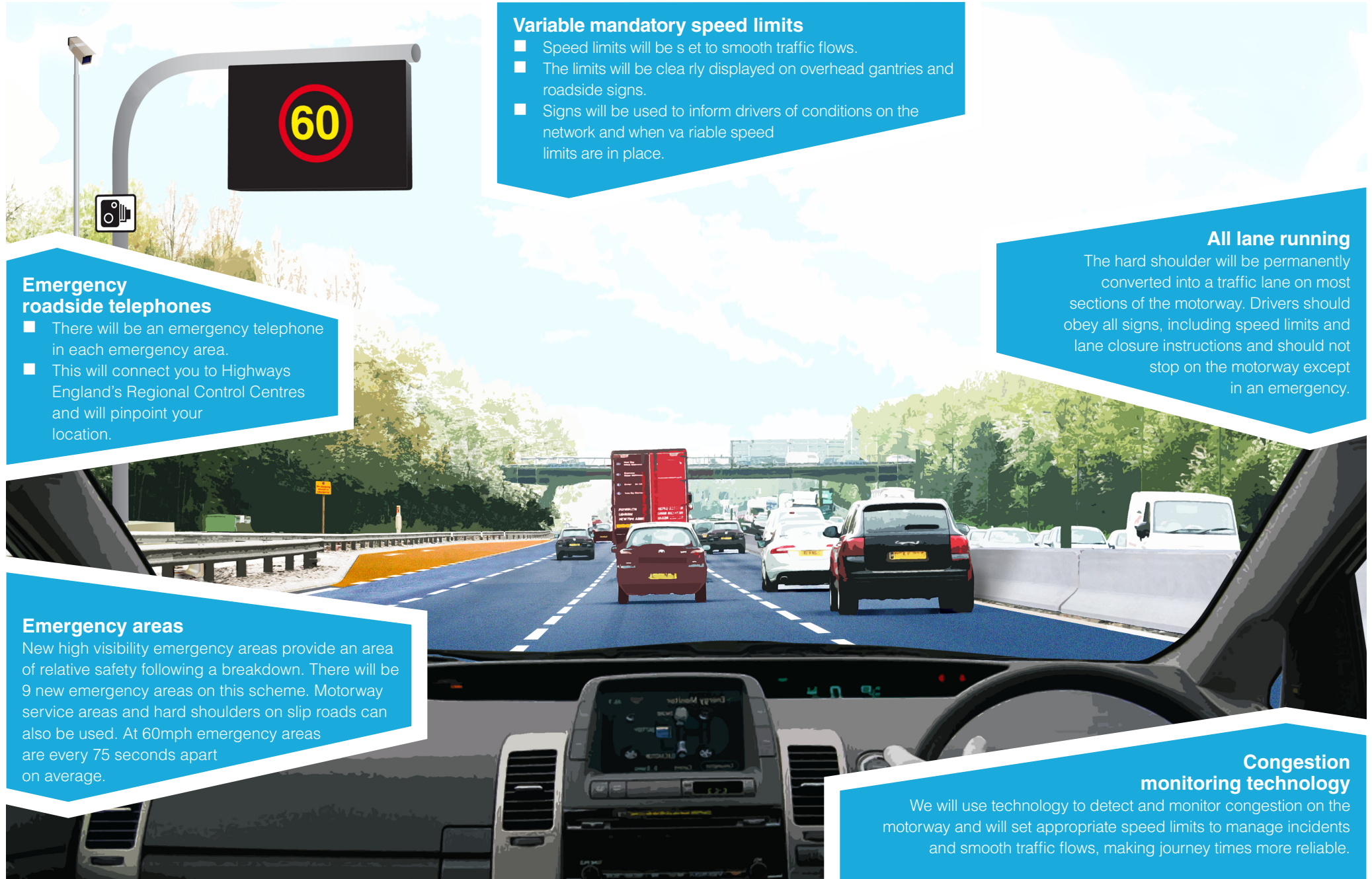
The hard shoulder will be permanently converted into a traffic lane on most sections of the motorway. Drivers should obey all signs, including speed limits and lane closure instructions and should not stop on the motorway except in an emergency.

Emergency areas


New high visibility emergency areas provide an area of relative safety following a breakdown. There will be 9 new emergency areas on this scheme. Motorway service areas and hard shoulders on slip roads can also be used. At 60mph emergency areas are every 75 seconds apart on average.




Congestion monitoring technology

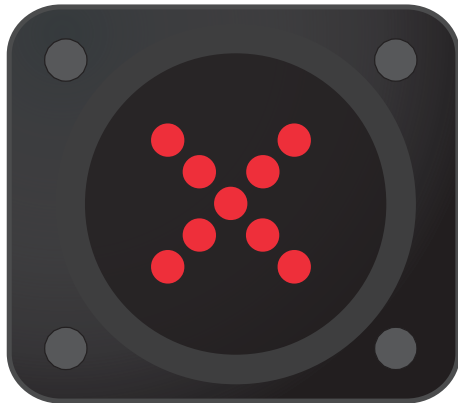
We will use technology to detect and monitor congestion on the motorway and will set appropriate speed limits to manage incidents and smooth traffic flows, making journey times more reliable.



Safety, red sign and incidents

You will see red  symbols on a gantry sign over the motorway or at the side of the motorway:

- We use a red  symbol to show that a lane is closed because of an incident or people working on the road.
- Red  also provide access for emergency services.
- Driving in a lane with a red  symbol is dangerous and drivers must **not** use it.



Incident management is controlled by teams in our control centres:

- Incidents will be detected by traffic sensors, CCTV or calls from the public.
- The control centre will set signs to protect incidents and clear an access route for emergency vehicles.
- Control centre staff will monitor traffic conditions throughout each incident, ensure signs are set to manage traffic, and will reopen lanes as soon as it is safe to do so.



What to do if you break down

If you need to stop in an emergency on a smart motorway:

- Use an emergency area, motorway service area or leave at the next junction. If that is not possible, try to get your vehicle off the carriageway, if it is safe to do so.



If you have to stop in a live lane:

- Put your hazard warning lights on to help other drivers see you and help our control room staff spot you on CCTV.
- If you are in the left hand lane and it is safe to do so, exit the vehicle via the left hand door. Wait behind the barrier if possible.
- If you cannot exit the vehicle, do not feel it is safe to do so or there is no other place of relative safety, remain in the vehicle. Keep your seat belt on and dial 999.



As soon as Highways England is alerted, our Regional Control Centre will close lanes to protect you and your vehicle until help arrives

Our contact details

We have several ways you can contact us to discuss the M6 junctions 2 to 4 smart motorway scheme.

Phone:

0300 123 5000

Email:

M6.j2-4@highwaysengland.co.uk

If you would like to be added to our mailing list for newsletter updates please send your email or postal address to the project email above.

Mailing address:

**5 St Philip's Place
Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 2PW**

Website:

www.highways.gov.uk/m6j2to4

Space for your notes

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

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