

Investing in your region

May 2019



This bulletin from Highways England provides an update about our investment programme in the south Hampshire region which will improve road journeys through the introduction of smart motorways and upgraded motorway junctions.

The importance of the M3 and M27 motorways

The M3 and M27 motorways provide a vital economic link from the Midlands (via the A34) and London to the major ports of Southampton and Portsmouth on the south coast. The corridor also acts as a gateway to the New Forest, a popular tourist destination. Keeping traffic flowing on these motorways is essential for the whole country.

The Solent region is also growing with thousands of new jobs being created in the area and new homes set to be built. We need to ensure that the motorway network remains fit for purpose to manage forecast increases in future road traffic. This is why upgrading the motorway network and adding traffic capacity to the M3 and M27 corridor is so important.

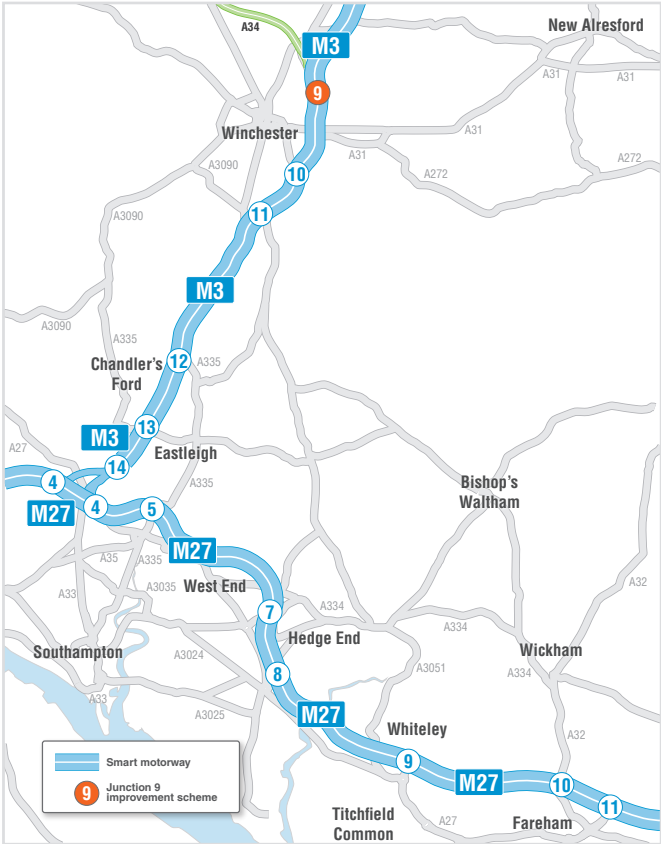
Our schemes

Highways England is responsible for operating, maintaining and improving motorways and major (trunk) roads across England. Our ambitious plans set out how we will invest in and upgrade England’s strategic road network. This will make our roads even safer while making it easier for road users to get to their destinations.

We have three major schemes in progress on the M3 and M27 corridor. Totalling almost £500m worth of investment, the schemes are:

- M3 junction 9 improvement
- M3 junction 9 to 14 smart motorway
- M27 junction 4 to 11 smart motorway

Several other road improvements are being carried out in the area by local authorities in the region and we are working collaboratively with all partners to co-ordinate our work and minimise disruption.



© Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS 100030649

What is a smart motorway and how does it work?

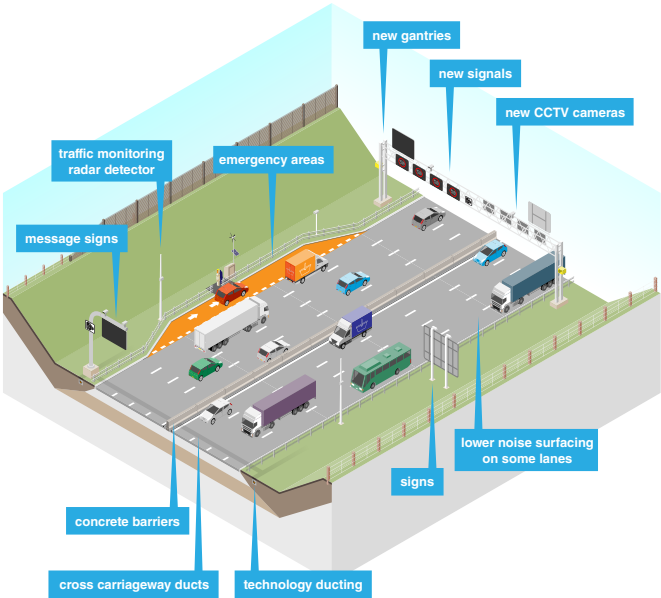
A smart motorway uses technology to monitor and control the speed and flow of motorway traffic. By using CCTV, sensors and electronic signage, Highways England can keep vehicles moving more smoothly, reduce congestion and maintain safety.

By introducing this technology and extra safety features, the hard shoulder can be converted into a permanent running lane providing additional capacity in both directions. Emergency refuge areas for vehicles will be installed at regular intervals on the side of the carriageway.

As well as improving journeys for road users, no additional land is required either side of the motorway despite gaining an extra lane in each direction. It is less costly and there is less impact than when a motorway is conventionally widened.

For more information about driving on a smart motorway, please visit:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/ how-to-drive-on-a-smart-motorway](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-drive-on-a-smart-motorway)



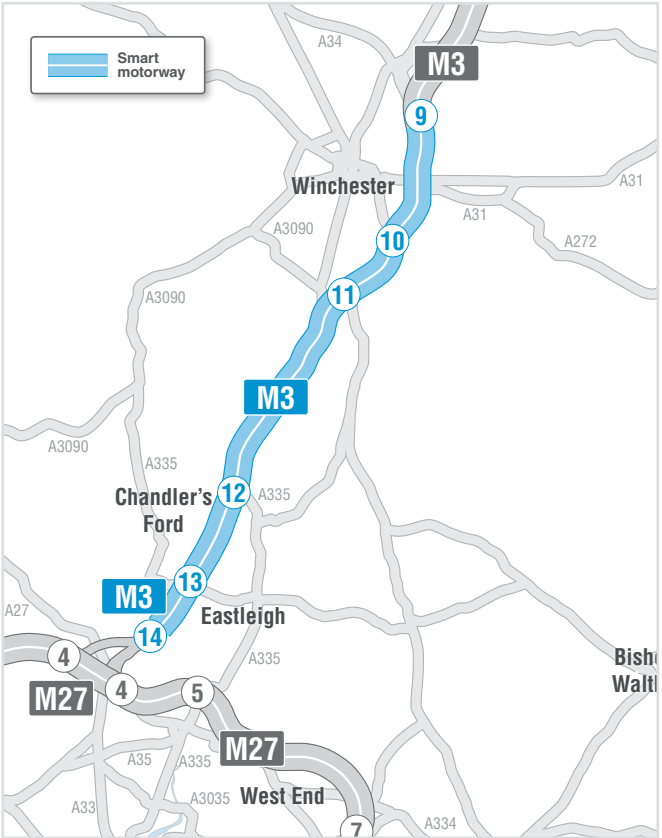
M3 junction 9-14 smart motorway

The M3 will be converted into a smart motorway from junction 9 (Winchester) to 14 (Southampton). The development of a smart motorway between these junctions will see the M3 operate four lanes in each direction between junction 9 and 13.

A hard shoulder will be in place between junction 13 and 14 as road users enter Southampton or turn on to the M27 in either direction.

For more information on the M3 junction 9 to 14 smart motorway please visit:

www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3j9to14



© Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS 100030649

M27 junction 4-11 smart motorway

The M27 will be converted into a smart motorway from junction 4 (Southampton) to junction 11 (Fareham). The change will see the hard converted to a lane so the motorway operates four lanes in each direction for 15 miles between junctions 4 and 11.

The hard shoulder will be retained where four lanes are already provided between junctions 7 and 8. For more information on the M27 junction 4 to 11 smart motorway please visit:

www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m27-j4-11-smart-motorway



© Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS 100030649

M3 junction 9 improvements

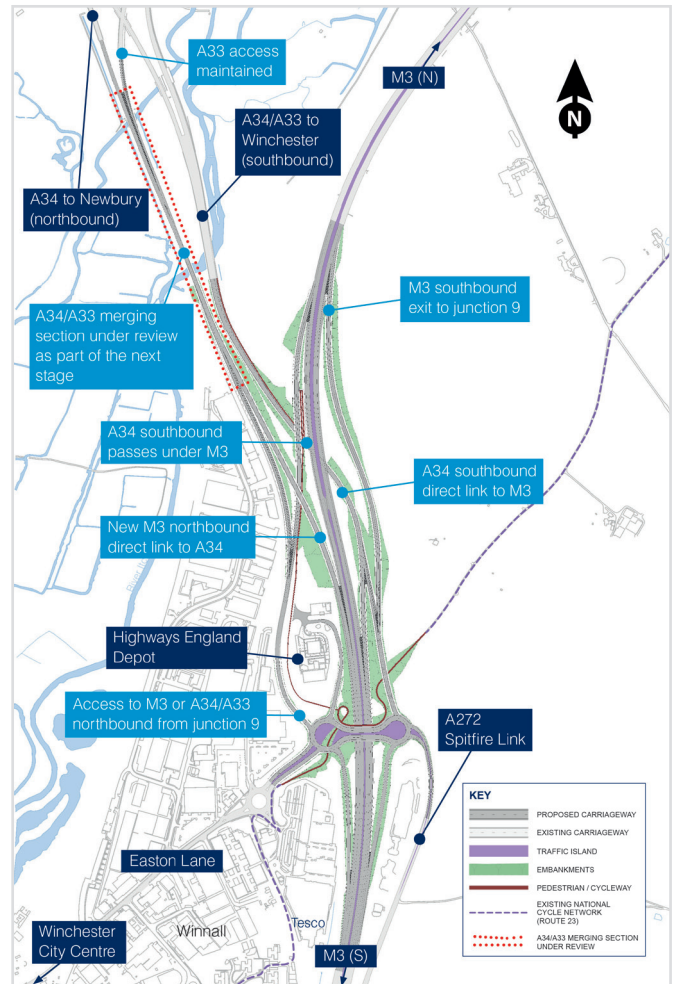
The proposed scheme provides free-flowing road links between the M3 and the A34 both northbound and southbound with no need to enter the junction 9 roundabout to travel between the A34 and M3.

The A34 southbound link will pass under the M3 with a 50mph speed limit. These changes will reduce congestion on the newly designed dumbbell road layout, making journey times more reliable, improving road safety and reducing air pollution.

Statutory consultation on the scheme will take place in July and August 2019.

For more information on the proposed improvements at M3 junction 9 please visit:

www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3j9



© Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS 100030649

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

© Crown copyright 2019.

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence:

visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/

write to the **Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU**, or email psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Mapping (where present): © Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS 100030649. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

This document is also available on our website at www.highwaysengland.co.uk

For an accessible version of this publication please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

If you have any enquiries about this publication email info@highwaysengland.co.uk or call **0300 123 5000***. Please quote the Highways England publications code **PR22/19**.

Highways England creative job number LEE19_0062

*Calls to 03 numbers cost no more than a national rate call to an 01 or 02 number and must count towards any inclusive minutes in the same way as 01 and 02 calls.

These rules apply to calls from any type of line including mobile, BT, other fixed line or payphone. Calls may be recorded or monitored.

Printed on paper from well-managed forests and other controlled sources when issued directly by Highways England.

Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ

Highways England Company Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363