

Stakeholder News

Highways Agency Area 8 – Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Milton Keynes Area

Welcome

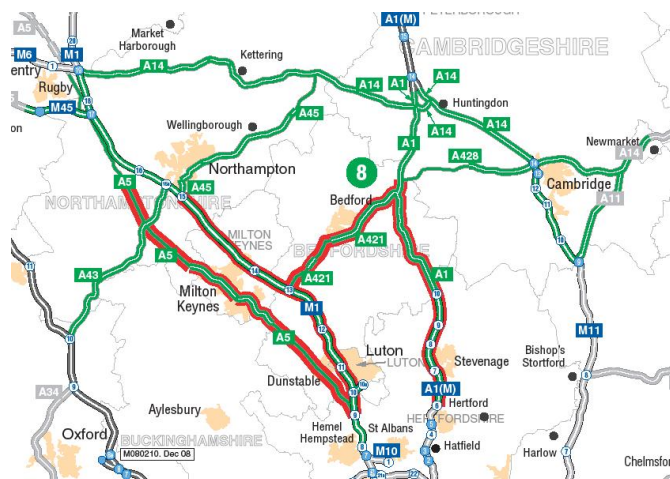
Welcome to the Highways Agency's first stakeholder newsletter for Area 8 in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Milton Keynes. We aim to produce this newsletter quarterly and to keep you updated with the latest developments on our routes, including information on upcoming schemes, hot topics, successes and interesting facts you may not have known about us. We will also provide useful contacts and links to help you obtain the information you need in the most convenient way possible.

The Highways Agency is an executive agency of the Department for Transport (DfT). We are responsible for operating, maintaining and improving England's strategic road network on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport. The Highways Agency's Area 8 team is located in Bedford. We are responsible for the following routes in Beds, Herts and Milton Keynes:

A1, A1(M), A5, A421 and M1.

Managing Agent Contractor

We have recently appointed a new Managing Agent Contractor, Carillion WSP, to manage and operate the trunk road network in Area 8. Under the 5 year contract, Carillion WSP will carry out a range of operational and routine maintenance activities on the A1, A1(M), A5, A14, A43, A45, A421, A428, M1, M11 and M45 from 1 September 2008.



Routes managed by the Area 8 Team are shown in green, with our Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Milton Keynes routes shown in red.

A421 improvements, M1 Junction 13 to Bedford

Our Contractor, Balfour Beatty commenced work on site on 28 October 2008. They hope to complete site clearance, archaeology and fencing by Christmas and start construction in earnest in the New Year. At that time a 40mph speed limit will be put in place on the existing A421, within the works area. We are on programme for opening in December 2010. If you would like up to date information on this project, you can find it on our website at:

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/4584.aspx>

A421 Great Barford Bypass

The A421 Great Barford Bypass is now fully open, but the contractor is still maintaining landscaping work for the next three years. Following local concern we have revised the lane markings at the Black Cat Roundabout to improve safety and congestion.

A1 Black Cat

A new black cat, standing three metres tall, appeared on the centre of the Black Cat Roundabout on Friday, 8 August 2008. We erected it during remedial work on the roundabout, as the previous cat mysteriously disappeared in June 2007.



A1(M) Ramp metering

Ramp Metering is a technique that manages traffic joining a motorway by introducing signal control on the motorway on-slip road. By adopting this technique, we hope to reduce local congestion, particularly at peak times. We hope to start works soon at Junction 6 northbound and Junction 7 southbound, with completion by the end of this financial year. We will carry out construction work at off peak times to minimise the impact on traffic.

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A5 Dunstable

We are discussing various options to improve traffic flow and pedestrian movements in Dunstable town centre with Dunstable Centre Management Committee, which represents all the significant stakeholders in the area.

M1 Junction 6a – 10

The M1 is one of the busiest motorways in Britain and is a major link between London, the Midlands and the North. The section between Junctions 6A and 10 is approximately 10 miles (17 km) long, stretching from the M25 through to Luton, and carries an average of 160,000 vehicles.

Our major projects team has now substantially completed the widening of the M1 to four lanes in each direction along this section, which we hope will reduce congestion and improve safety and journey time reliability. We expect the scheme to open by Christmas 2008, and be fully completed and commissioned by the end of March 2008.

If you would like up to date information on this project, you can find it on our website at:

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/4478.aspx>

M1 Junction 10 – 13

The Highways Agency is hoping to improve approximately 15 miles of the M1 between Junction 10, south of Luton, and Junction 13, where it joins the A421.

If you would like up to date information on this project, you can find it on our website at:

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/4482.aspx>

Do you have any questions on any of the topics covered in the newsletter?

Initial contact number:

Highways Agency Information Line
08457 50 40 30

