

Meadows roundabout improvement works – frequently asked questions

What are you doing?

The improvements include changes to the western side of the junction and new and improved traffic signals and crossings.

Why?

The improvements address the capacity issues and increase access for all modes of transport.

High levels of congestion on this strategic road leads to significant and regular queuing on the A30, A331 and A321. The improvements to the Meadows roundabout will result in reduced travel time for key movements through the junction and make it work more efficiently.

What are the benefits of this scheme?

We have carried out detailed traffic studies with our designers, Atkins Consultants, which have shown that the improvements to the roundabout will result in up to a 30% reduction in journey time across the roundabout in peak traffic hours.

How is this scheme being delivered?

Surrey County Council Highways are delivering this scheme. We are currently tendering for a contractor who should be appointed by the end of 2017.

Following appointment of the contractor we will release draft traffic management plans on our website.

How are you going to manage traffic congestion during the works?

Construction will be carried out in stages to ensure a continuous flow of traffic across the Meadows. We are also exploring the options for night and off peak working where possible.

We are working closely with Highways England, Hampshire County Council and Bracknell Forest District Council to minimise impact on the M3 and neighbouring roads.

We are liaising closely with residents and businesses to try to understand the local issues and successfully deliver this scheme with minimum disruption.

Lessons have been learnt following the construction of the A331 shared pedestrian/cycle path which we recognise caused a high level of disruption in the area last autumn.

These works are really going to affect traffic in Blackwater/Hampshire, particularly Blackwater Bridge which already queues at peak times. Are the Blackwater traffic signals going to be linked to the Meadows ones?

Unfortunately the signals on Blackwater Bridge are outside of the scope of this project, however colleagues in Hampshire County Council are aware of residents' concerns.

We are working closely with Hampshire County Council to minimise disruption for vehicles travelling from the Blackwater area towards the Meadows.

Why can't you put two lanes in on the new southbound right-hand turn?

1 right turn lane provides the best balance of lane configuration for the varying levels of traffic over an average 7 day week.

There is a limit on the amount of space available for construction as the land surrounding the Meadows is owned by the Environment Agency and is a natural flood plain.

What improvements are you making to the traffic signals?

We will be installing new traffic signals and vehicle detectors. When completed the new signals will operate under 'real-time' urban traffic control. This means that the vehicle detector on the ground will continuously monitor traffic queues on all road sections at the gyratory and adjust the signal timings to minimise queues and reduce delays.

Traffic exiting Tank Road blocks the roundabout – what are you doing about this?

A 'keep clear' sign will be painted at the junction to stop vehicles blocking access to the roundabout.

How will you keep us up to date with progress?

We will publish regular updates on our website. Please see: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-and-cleaning/roadworks>

You can also contact us using the email address meadows.improvements@surreycc.gov.uk

Why weren't we consulted?

The Meadows improvement works were subject to a Business Case which was submitted and approved by EM3 Local Enterprise Partnership in 2014. This followed independent assurance and scrutiny, and took into account benefits and affordability.

The business case was supported by Hampshire County Council, Bracknell Forest Council, Surrey Heath Borough Council, Rushmoor Borough Council and the York Town and Watchmoore Business Association.

Unfortunately there are several constraints to the works on the Meadows which meant that public consultation was not possible for this project. Unlike Highways England's proposals for improvements to M25 junction 10/A3 Wisley we do not have a variety of options to consult on.

The limited budget and the location of the roundabout means that we have to design a scheme that gives the greatest improvements within budget and without encroaching on to Environment Agency land which surrounds the Meadows. This land is a natural flood plain and so construction is not allowed.

Why can't you build a fly-over? Surely this is the only way to make long term improvements?

The proposed design gets the maximum benefits for residents from the money available. Flyovers are very expensive to construct and are unaffordable within the current project budget.