

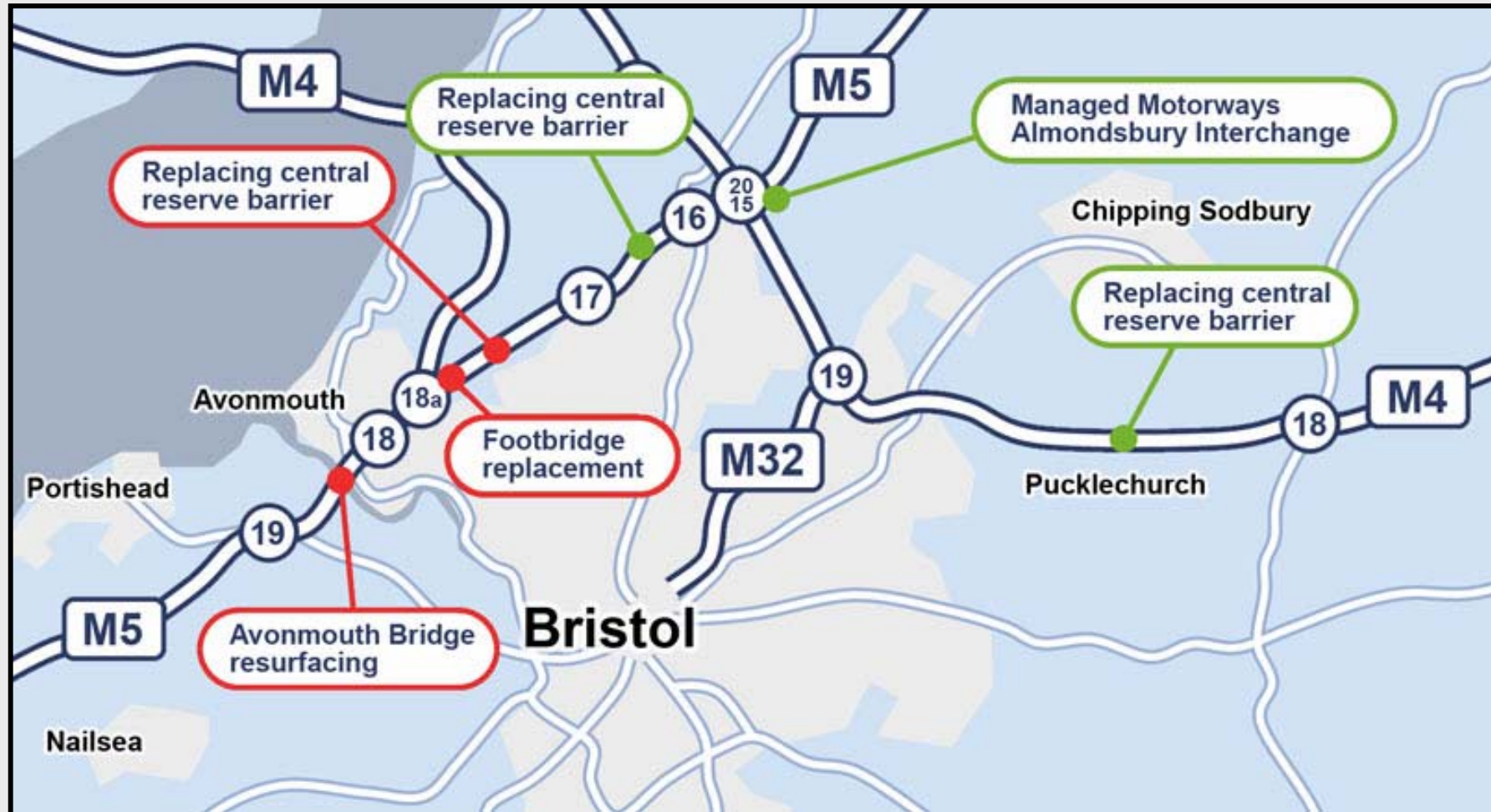
Safe roads, Reliable journeys, Informed travellers



M4/M5 Highways Agency projects in the Bristol area

CHRISTOPHER JONES

Where are we working?



Current schemes

September to December 2009	M5 Avonmouth Bridge	Resurfacing of northbound carriageway
	M5 J17 to J18	Replacing central barrier
	M5 Lawrence Weston over bridge	Demolition of existing over bridge

Avonmouth Bridge resurfacing

- Northbound carriageway being resurfaced, following on from southbound in 2008:
 - impervious to water
 - greater durability (up to 20 year life span)
 - machine laid for accurate consistent level
- 3 lanes maintained in both directions at peak times, with access for emergency services
- 50mph speed limit, with average speed-camera monitoring



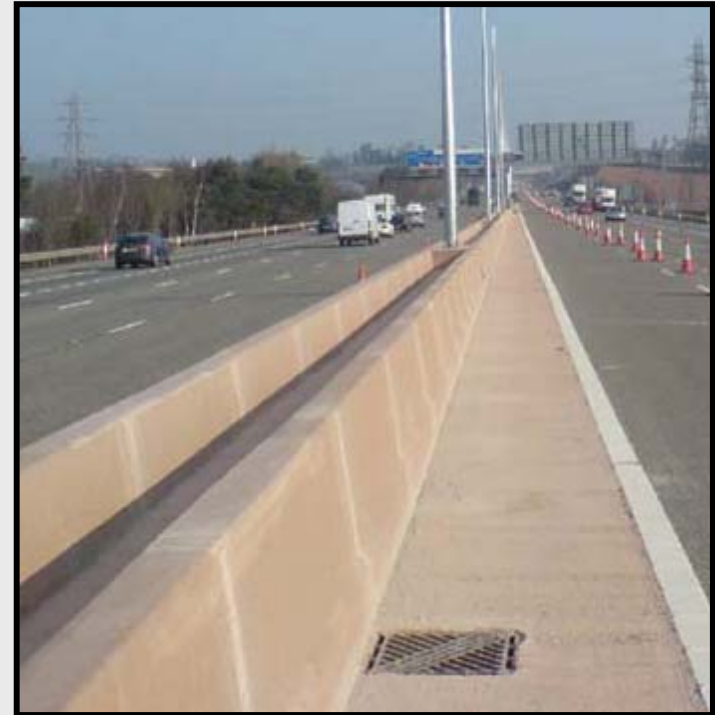
Current operations

- Traffic management installed at beginning of September - full contraflow from 6 Sept.
- Removal of old surface on lanes 3 & 4 completed.
- Waterproofing and resurfacing commenced from south end of bridge.
- Welding inspections on steel deck ongoing.



M5 J17 to J18 barrier replacement

- Existing central reserve barrier to be replaced with new concrete barriers. Additional renewal of verge barrier, central reserve drainage and street lighting.
- Traffic management extended from Avonmouth Bridge.



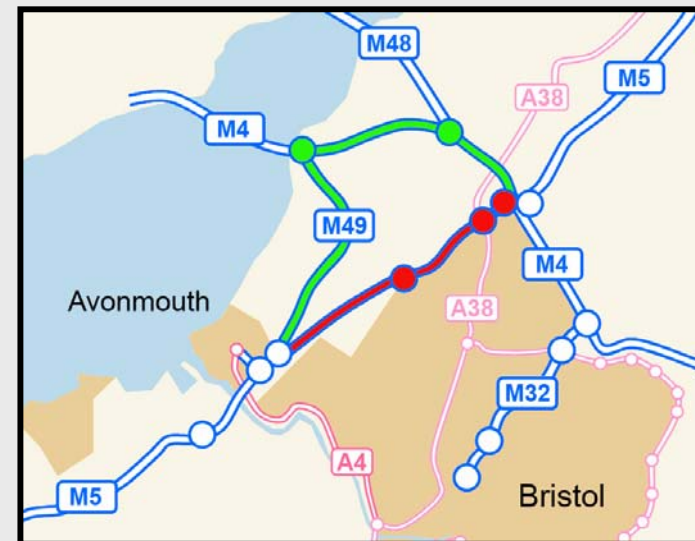
Current operations

- Traffic management installed at beginning of September
- Existing steel central reserve barriers and lighting columns removed.
- Drainage repairs and ground works commenced 12 September



Lawrence Weston bridge replacement

- The overbridge has suffered a number of collisions and is closed to vehicles. Unplanned response to any future collision would cause significant disruption.
- Will be replaced with a low maintenance steel footbridge
- Will require a full closure of the M5 on two occasions for demolition of old bridge and installation of new structure.
- First closure planned to take place from 00.01 on Christmas Day
- Traffic will be diverted using M49



Future schemes

January to March 2010	M5 Lawrence Weston over bridge	Installing new foot bridge
	M5 J15 to J17	Replacing central barrier
	M4 J18 to J19	Replacing central barrier
March 2010 to summer 2012	M4 J19 to J20 M5 J15 to J17	Constructing 'Managed Motorways' for hard shoulder running

M4 J19-20 & M5 J15-17 HSR

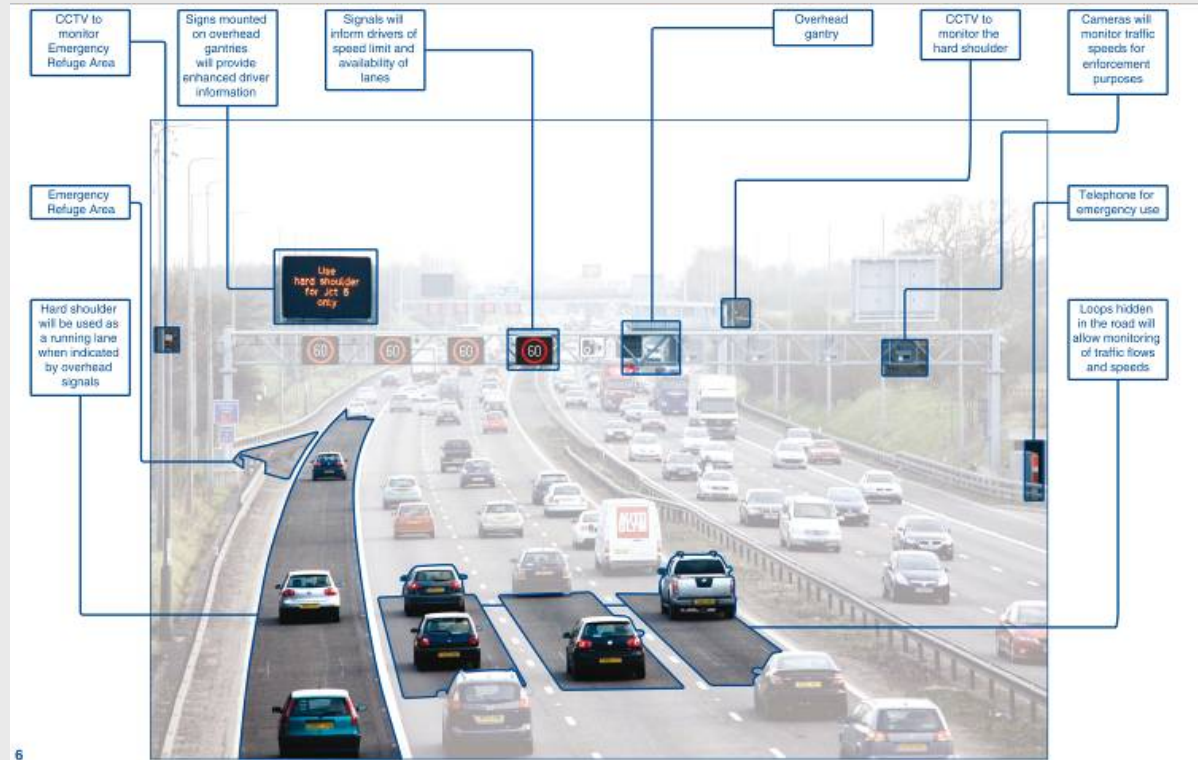


Scheme Overview

- Existing Conditions:
- M4/M5 and Almondsbury Interchange provide strategic links to SW, South Wales, London & Midlands
- Congestion is a daily problem (AM and PM peaks)
- Accident rate is similar to the national motorway average
- Seasonal variations during the year
- Complex weaving movements
- Close proximity of M5 J15 & J16



Managed Motorways – Principal Features



Network Impact Assessment

Potential Phasing



Phase 1

M4WB to Trench Lane
M5NB 17 - 16



Phase 2

M4EB from TL
M5 SB 16 – 17



Phase 3

Almondsbury I/C
M4 & M5 Lead in

What are we doing to minimise disruption?

- Traffic management is being designed to keep capacity of the network as high as possible
 - *Will always have three lanes in each direction at peak times*
- Communications strategy focused on providing real-time information to road users
 - *Allows motorists to make informed decisions about their journey plans*
- Working with public transport to provide information on alternative methods of travel
 - *Reducing the number of vehicles will reduce delays*

Informed Travellers

- Real-time information is being delivered through use of:
 - Highways Agency website
 - Variable message signs displaying current information on road conditions ahead – actual journey times calculated from number plate recognition
 - Information services for businesses
 - Highways Agency ‘Traffic radio’



Informed Travellers

- A dedicated section of the Highways Agency website is being created for these projects: www.highways.gov.uk/bristol
- Will provide quick access to real time journey information on 'Traffic England' and links to alternative travel methods.
- Project updates added fortnightly.
- Additional functionality being developed.



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Highways Agency website. The main content area is titled 'Bristol Box' and contains text about major road works projects in the Bristol region, including the M4 and M5. A 'Bristol Box map' is also visible, showing the location of the projects. A pop-up window titled 'M5 Avonmouth Bridge Resurfacing' is overlaid on the page, providing detailed information about the project, including its status, location, and a description of the work being undertaken. The pop-up window includes a 'Traffic Management' section at the bottom.

Bristol Box

Commencing this September, several major road works projects will be taking place in the coming year to renew and improve the highway network in the South West. As part of the Government's 'Building Britain's Future' initiative, the Highways Agency will be investing an additional £60m in the area's infrastructure over the coming months. The projects will include works on both the M4 and M5 in the Bristol region, including Avonmouth Bridge. For more information on each of these projects, please click on the map below to link to a new page. We have also prepared a Frequently Asked Questions document and publications page which can be accessed via the adjacent list.

The Highways Agency is planning the traffic management required for its roadworks to reduce disruption as much as possible, however due to the nature of these projects it is inevitable that some delays will occur particularly at peak times. In order to inform the public about where and how long the delays are, we will be providing traffic information using a variety of sources including road side message signs at key locations beside the motorway.

The Highways Agency is planning the traffic management required for its roadworks to minimise disruption as much as possible, however, due to the nature of these projects it is inevitable that some delays will occur particularly at peak times. Further details about current traffic conditions can be obtained via Traffic England, Traffic Radio or call 09700 400 115 for traffic information covering the Highways Agency's network. To use alternative means of transport, you can use Transport Direct's Journey planner.

• Register to receive email alerts when this page is updated

Bristol Box map

M5 Avonmouth Bridge Resurfacing

M5 Avonmouth Bridge Resurfacing

Status: Current

Located in: Area 2

Scheme type: Other

Updates: Get email alerts when we publish new information

The Project

Avonmouth Bridge was opened in 1974, and currently carries approximately 60,000 vehicles per day in each direction on the M5. The existing surfacing on the northbound carriageway is at the end of its life, requiring frequent repairs. These repairs could be seen as patches of various sizes on the northbound carriageway which contribute to the poor surface profile and ride quality. In the longer term, if the surface was not replaced together with the underlying waterproof membrane, the structure of the bridge itself would be adversely affected. The new surface material will provide greater water resistance when compared with the existing, helping protect the bridge and integrity of the surface. The surface is being machine laid, which will improve the ride quality.

Work to resurface the bridge has been broken into two stages to avoid disruption during key holiday periods. The first stage of the resurfacing was undertaken on the southbound carriageway, starting in September 2008 and was successfully completed in December 2008. The northbound carriageway works are scheduled to be undertaken from September to December 2009. The work is weather susceptible, therefore the duration of the works is subject to variation depending on the actual weather during the various construction activities.

Following installation of the traffic management at the beginning of September, planning operations commenced to remove the old road surface from lanes 3 and 4 of the north bound carriageway. Once completed, this enabled inspection of the steel bridge deck to take place and any areas for welding repairs were identified. Work to prime the bridge deck in preparation for waterproofing and resurfacing will be taking place over the coming weeks.

Traffic Management

Additional communications activity

- Copies of M4/M5 publication distributed throughout the South West. 35,000 copies of project leaflet distributed with free newspapers in Bristol and North Somerset
- Regular briefings and updates to the media as required



Questions

