

M42 Junction 6 Improvement Update



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Work on the M42 junction 6 improvement scheme continues to gather pace as we move into a key phase of the scheme. Whilst the visual impact locally has been significant over the last year you will really start to see the scheme coming together during 2022.

We have been working with Network Rail and other local partners to identify the best time to install the new A45 pedestrian footbridge, which has been built away from the site and will be dropped in over a weekend. We have now agreed that this will take place at the end of March. It will involve a full closure of the A45 over between Friday night and Sunday evening so we will be providing more detail on exactly how this will work closer to the time, but this represents the installation of the first large structure on the scheme.

You may have noticed that we have now established a working area on Catherine de Barnes Lane (just outside our Clock Lane compound) where we will be building a bridge that connects the local road network with the new link road. This work includes piling (installation of steel piles to support the foundations) which is set to take place during February. This can be quite noisy and cause vibration, but we have been working with all locally affected stakeholders to identify how we can reduce the impact and have carried out surveys on all nearby properties to provide residents with peace of mind that the work doesn't cause any damage to their homes.

The scheme has employed an earthworks contractor to excavate along the link road and the new junction and they have made excellent progress in and around the new junction and along the line of the new link road (A4545) as we move towards meeting the open to traffic date of October 2023.

A significant part of the work takes place underground as there are a large amount of utility cables and pipes to divert, install and improve. A lot of this is delivered by the utility companies on behalf of us but we continue to work with them to reduce the amount of traffic management needed and to coordinate the works so that disruption is reduced. The various traffic management on Catherine de Barnes mainly relates to this work but whilst we will always be cautious when we tell you how long any measures will last, so far, we have been able to beat our programme of works. There will be traffic management of some sort along Catherine de Barnes throughout 2022 but I am able to offer assurance that the scheme is ahead of where we expected to be.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your understanding and patience whilst we build this scheme in and around where you live. The long-term benefits of the scheme are vast but there is significant disruption during construction.

As Covid restrictions relax we will look to provide a platform that allows greater face to face engagement such as guided tours around the site but if you have any specific questions, please feel free to contact me directly at Jonathan.compton@skanska.co.uk.

