

# M621 barrier replacement and maintenance work

## We are carrying out road maintenance work on the M621 between junctions 3 and 6.

- Installing a concrete central reserve barrier
- Installing new verge safety barriers
- Improving road drainage
- Renewing road resurfacing
- Carrying out structural improvements at Belle Isle bridge including renewal of an expansion joint

This is part of our programme of maintenance work across the region – making sure your roads are safe and in good condition. The project is being carried out by contractors Aone+ on our behalf.

You may not see us working during the daytime because most of our work is taking place overnight.

## Why is there a 30mph speed limit?

This section of the M621 is usually a 50mph stretch of motorway. This is due to the alignment of the road, its urban nature, high volumes of traffic and numerous junctions which mean there's also often slow moving traffic on this route.

The reduced speed limit of 30mph has been put in place for the safety of drivers and to protect the structures along that route.

A barrier needs to be included on the M621 to meet motorway standards and for safety reasons it needs to have a reduced limit when this is removed.

## When will the work take place?

We started work in December and the project will take around seven months to complete.

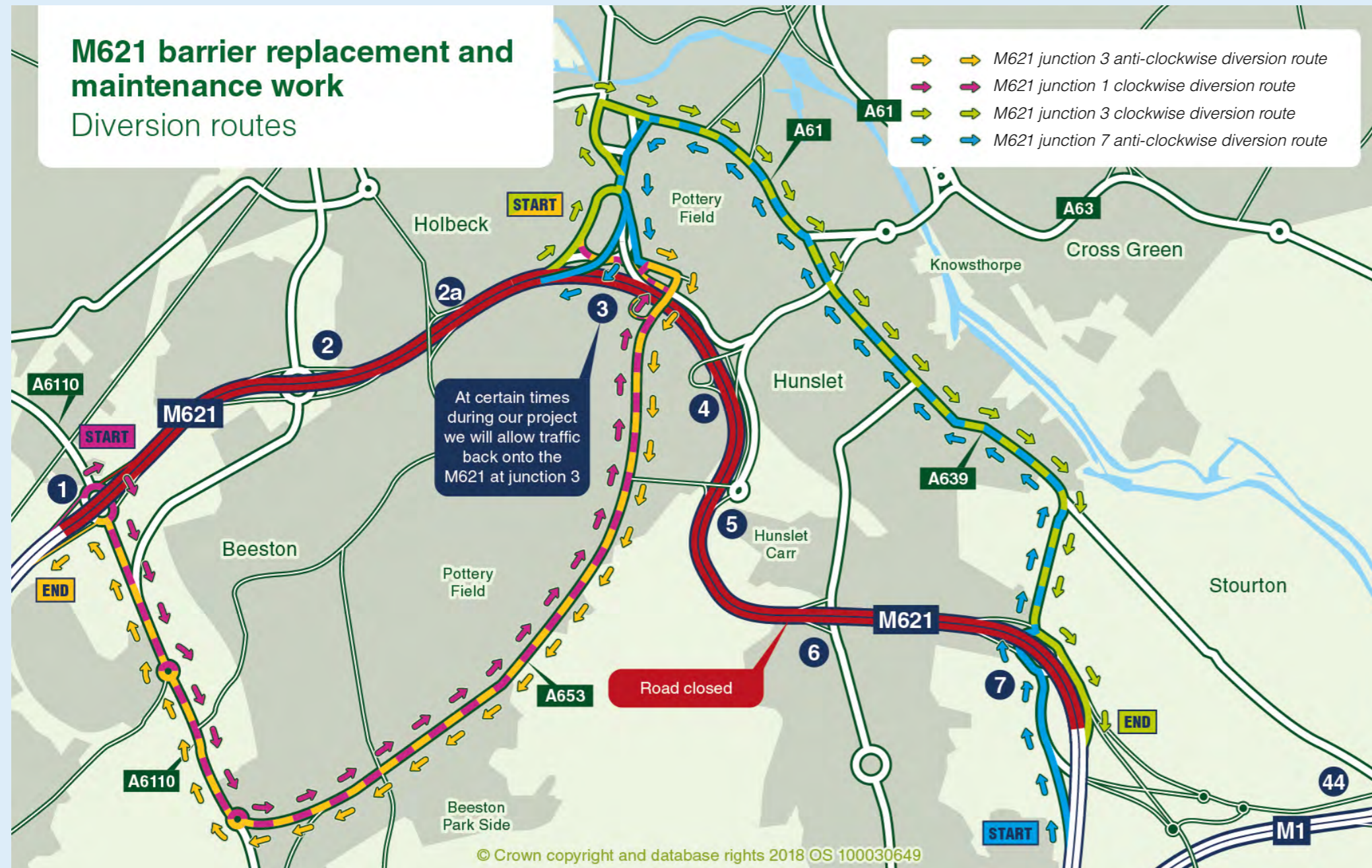
We have planned our work carefully and have listened to advice from the Police and the local council. We have been working overnight – generally between 8pm and 6am so that we can:

- minimise disruption to customers using the road
- keep road workers and the travelling public safe

Our workforce cannot work on the barrier during the day due to the limited amount of space which means that a carriageway needs to be closed to ensure a safe working area. We are committed to keeping all the lanes open on the M621 during peak times. Alternative methods were looked at which would have closed lanes during the day, for example installing a temporary barrier. This would have had a more significant negative affect on the traffic by reducing the capacity of the M621 by a third.

## Diversion routes

This map shows the diversion routes which will be in place when we close the M621 overnight between junctions 1 and 7. The routes will be clearly signposted.



## Progress so far and what happens next

Despite the challenges of adverse weather and unforeseen ground conditions the scheme is now 66% complete (at the time this leaflet was published).

So far on this scheme, we have:

- Renewed the safety barrier in the verge in both directions.
- Renewed and repaired the drainage to alleviate flooding risks.
- Installed a new safety barrier on the anti-clockwise exit slip road at junction 5 (Hunslet).
- Been carrying out pothole repairs on the main carriageway as we have been going along.

Moving forward, we are:

- Importing the excavated material to create a suitable foundation for the new concrete barrier.
- Repositioning drainage, access and inspection chambers.
- Carrying out associated kerbing work together with other maintenance tasks such as grass cutting and litter picking.
- Carrying out bridge maintenance work to Belle Isle bridge.

## Benefits of concrete barriers

Concrete barriers last 2.5 times longer than a traditional steel barrier, are less susceptible to damage than steel which means as an incident has been cleared drivers can be on their way. It also makes it harder for vehicles to cross through the barrier to the opposite carriageway, improving safety even further.



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

## Will traffic be disrupted?

There will be disruption to traffic between junctions 1 and 7 of the M621 during this project. We'll do everything possible to keep this disruption to a minimum.

### Anticlockwise - junctions 7-1

- Overnight anti-clockwise closure of M621
- Affecting anyone travelling north from junction 7 to 1

### Clockwise - junctions 1-7

On specific dates during our work – dates will be advertised on road signs and our webpage once confirmed.

- Overnight clockwise closures of M621
- Affecting anyone travelling south from junction 1 to 7

Please follow the recommended diversion routes shown on this leaflet.

When there are local events we may need to delay the start of road closures.

## Restricted speed limits

We recognise that this is a very busy route but we need to reduce the speed limit for safety reasons.

The speed limit was reduced to 30mph between junctions 1 and 7 and has been in place 24 hours a day since winter 2017 and will continue until summer 2018.

We need to reduce the speed limit to keep our workforce and the general public safe. This way we can work in the central reserve, while maintaining narrow lanes and hard shoulder running.

Please make sure that you allow extra time for your journey, especially at peak times.

## How can I find out more?

Contact us for more information about this project.

☎ **0300 123 5000**

@ [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk)

🌐 [www.highwaysengland.co.uk](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk)



## What happens if I break down?

If your vehicle breaks down within our roadworks we provide a free recovery service. We will be installing additional CCTV cameras throughout our roadworks. The cameras will help us to see these breakdowns and other incidents, respond quickly and reduce the chance of delays.

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