

# M20 Junction 4

## Eastern Bridge Widening

### Why the scheme is needed



The A228 is a strategic route in west Kent and between the Medway towns and Kings Hill it provides access to many homes and jobs.

New developments underway at Peter's Village at Wouldham, Leybourne Park at New Hythe and St Andrews Park at Halling will provide significantly more homes. Planning permission for these developments identified the need to widen the eastern bridge at M20 Junction 4 to cater for the additional traffic pressures.

#### What does the scheme involve?

Widening the bridge will increase the number of traffic lanes around the eastern side of the gyratory system from 2 to 3 lanes. This extra carriageway will give more vehicle stacking space at the traffic signals together with improved destination lane markings. The scheme will create a new lane for A228 traffic from the Snodland direction going London bound on the M20.

The works will require the demolition of the parapet and paved margin strip of the existing bridge, new foundations behind the M20 hard shoulder and new supports. Steel beams will then be placed to span the motorway over which a concrete deck will be poured and connected to the existing bridge. A new parapet, road surfacing and alterations to the traffic signals will complete the works. Motorway lighting and communications systems will also need to be relocated.

Newsletter 1  
November 2015

#### Work to Date

- Funding secured
- Bridge widening design completed
- Highways England approval secured
- Construction tenders invited
- Planning application for site compound submitted

#### Programme

- Construction contract award - December 2015
- Further public information - January/February 2016
- Work starts - February/March 2016
- Construction completed - October 2016

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### How much does it cost and where is the money coming from?

The total scheme cost is £4.8million. The Department of Transport has given £2.2million of support through funding known as Local Growth Fund allocated to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and developments are providing the rest.

### When will it happen?

The widened bridge has been designed and construction tenders have been invited from firms experienced in this type of work.

The intention is to award a contract in December 2015 and carry out the works between February and October 2016.

Highways England, who is responsible for the M20, has given approval for the County Council to carry out the works.

### How will we keep traffic moving?

The bridge widening is a complex engineering project in a highly constrained location. The objectives are to carry out the work safely and efficiently, and to minimise inconvenience to both road users and local residents.

The M20 should not be significantly affected. A 50mph speed limit will apply but all motorway lanes will be kept open. Some critical activities, such as lifting the bridge beams into position, will need this part of the M20 to be closed at night over some weekends. Motorway traffic will use the slip roads to divert around the works. Information will be provided well in advance of these closures.

To carry out the works it will only be possible to keep one lane in use over the existing bridge for much of the construction period. There will be advance signage and publicity for the

works so that drivers can make informed decisions about their journeys.

To assist the flow of traffic it is proposed to temporarily ban the right turn out of Castle Way (south). Castle Way (south) traffic wanting to join the M20 will need to turn left and go along the A228 Leybourne Bypass and then 'U' turn at Park Road roundabout.

Existing pedestrian routes and controlled crossings at Junction 4 will be maintained during the works.

### What next?

When construction tenders have been assessed and a contractor chosen, we will have a much better idea of the work, programme and proposed traffic management. This information will be widely shared and regular information will continue throughout construction of the works via the KCC website, scheme noticeboards and signage. Advance information, in particular, will be provided for all night time activities. If you would like to be kept up to date by email then please contact us via the project email address given at the foot of this newsletter.

