



Asad Khan, Highways England project lead, shows the High Sheriff of Northamptonshire, Dr Ahmed Muktar, the M1 smart motorway exhibition

Highways England goes **smart** with online exhibitions

A new, innovative online information service, being piloted by Highways England has been going from strength to strength since being launched last month



(Pictured left to right) Andy Hitch, senior programme manager, Highways England; Steve Ellis, Mott MacDonald/Grontmij, project director; Janice Allen, project lead, Highways England; Sir Antony Winnington, High Sheriff of Worcestershire, and Richard Turnbull, Balfour Beatty



The pilot online exhibitions will be available until 30 November 2015, and feedback will be closely monitored.

The exhibitions can be accessed via the following links:

M1 dPIE: www.highways.gov.uk//M1j19-16

M5 dPIE: www.highways.gov.uk//M5j4a-6

Two online public information exhibitions relating to smart motorway schemes on the M1 between junctions 19 and 16 in Northamptonshire and the M5 between junctions 4a and 6 in Worcestershire are being accessed by hundreds of people every week.

The schemes are part of a £15 billion government investment Highways England is delivering between now and 2021 which will see nearly 300 extra lane miles added to motorways.

Smart motorways use modern technology to actively control traffic flows and improve journey times. By varying speed limits and using the hard shoulder as an extra lane, congestion can be reduced and traffic smoothed.

Digital public information exhibitions are a brand new venture for Highways England and an exciting and flexible addition to traditional face-to-face exhibitions.

Developed with Highways England's contract designers, Atkins Global for the M1 scheme and Mott MacDonald and Grontmij joint venture for the

M5 project, the digital exhibitions act as a one-stop-shop for information and can be accessed on the Highways England website.

Janice Allen, project lead for the M5 scheme said: *"The M5 junctions 4a to 6 digital exhibition was developed to widen access to information about the project. We take customer feedback seriously and will welcome comments from exhibition visitors. Feedback can be sent from within the digital exhibition."*

Going digital

The High Sheriffs of Northamptonshire and Worcestershire recently showed their support for the dynamic new initiative by formally launching the online exhibitions. Sir Anthony Winnington, High Sheriff of Worcestershire said of the M5 online exhibition: *"It is impressive, and useful to know that Highways England is working hard behind the scenes to put together programmes to make the roads safer, and that it is using technology to update a number of these to smart motorways including the M5 junctions 4a to 6."*

"The scheme's new digital public information exhibition is instructive,

and I recommend it to all road users who have access to the internet."

Asad Khan, Highways England project lead for the M1 junctions 19 to 16 scheme, said: *"These interactive exhibitions are intended to be a much more convenient and innovative way of providing information about the scheme's construction work and its possible implications for those living close to the motorway and drivers using the motorway on a regular basis."*

The High Sheriff of Northamptonshire, Dr Ahmed Muktar, added: *"I found the scheme's digital public information exhibition both interesting and useful. I recommend it to Northamptonshire residents, businesses, our extensive transport hub and other users of the M1 who want to find out what will be happening along the route."*

Highways England strives to provide accurate, up to date and helpful information to road users and this latest pilot project is just one of many initiatives the organisation is currently undertaking, to improve the experience for its customers. The government company will continue to host physical public information exhibitions where they are needed, particularly for consultation schemes. 🟡