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M1 Junction 34 Tinsley roundabout signals renewal

A £1.3m scheme to renew traffic signals at Junction 34 of the M1 at Tinsley will get underway next week.

Most of the work will be carried out overnight – between 8pm and 6am – and that will require lane closures, full carriageway closures on local roads and slip road closures.

Some work will be done during the day within the central reservation but will not involve any lane closures.

The work starts on Monday (9 January) and is due to be completed by the end of March.

The junction links the M1 with Sheffield and Rotherham via the A631, A6178 and Tinsley Viaduct.

The main carriageway of the motorway will remain open throughout the overnight works but the northbound exit slip from the M1, A6178 Sheffield Road, A631 Bawtry Road, A631 Shepcote Lane and the A6178 Tinsley roundabout itself will be subject to lane and full carriageway closures at times. There will also be occasional overnight lane closures along the southbound carriageway of Tinsley Viaduct.

Clearly-signed diversions as well as advance signing of closure dates will be in place.

The northern, Junction 34 interchange at Meadowhall is not affected by any of the works.

Highways Agency project manager Lynne Biddles said, "This is vital, if routine, work to ensure this important junction continues to work as effectively and efficiently as possible.

"Renewing the traffic signals around the roundabout will reduce maintenance visits and therefore cut congestion. Replacing the ageing equipment with more up-to-date technology will also improve the visibility of the traffic signals by using LED signal heads and improving their locations. Installing a more responsive timing system will improve journey times through the junction.

"We have timed the work to take place overnight when traffic volumes are lowest to minimise disruption to drivers. We will also be working hard to ensure local residents are not disturbed by the overnight works."

END

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Highways Agency is an executive agency of the Department for Transport. We manage, maintain and improve England's motorways and other strategic roads on behalf of the Secretary of State.

2. For the Highways Agency's advice to road users this winter, "Make time for winter", please visit www.highways.gov.uk/winter

3. Maintenance and improvement projects: We plan maintenance and improvement projects carefully to allow road works to be completed safely, in a cost effective way while keeping disruption to road users to a minimum. We do as much work as possible overnight and when roads are less busy in order to keep more lanes open for road users at peak travel times. Drivers are advised to check their route for road works and allow extra time for their journeys where needed.

4. Safety at roadworks: The Highways Agency is working with the industry and road users to reduce the risks of working on the roads. For the safety of road workers and all road users, when you are approaching roadworks:

- Keep within the speed limit – it is there for your safety.
- Get into the correct lane in good time – don't keep switching.
- Concentrate on the road ahead, not the roadworks.
- Be alert for works' traffic leaving or entering roadworks.
- Keep a safe distance – there could be queues in front.
- Observe all signs – they are there to help you.

5. Real-time traffic information for England's motorways and other strategic roads is available:

- From the web at www.highways.gov.uk/traffic or www.highways.gov.uk/mobile if using a phone or mobile device.
- By phone from the Highways Agency's Information Line on 0300 123 5000 at any time (Calls to 0300 numbers will cost no more than 5p per minute from a standard BT residential landline. Call charges from other landlines and mobile networks may vary, but will be no more than a standard geographic call and will be included in all inclusive calls).

We have a variety of journey planning tools that road users can use to check travel conditions on the roads we manage, and we will do all we can to keep road users informed (five minutes and discount schemes). Make sure it's safe and legal before you call. Before using any mobile, find a safe place to park. Never stop on the hard shoulder of a motorway except in an emergency.

- On an iPhone app which will automatically select the region you are in. Free to download from the iTunes store or search for Highways Agency on your device.
- From Twitter. There are eight feeds with live traffic information provided by region. For information on roads in the North East and Yorkshire and The Humber follow us at @HAttraffic_yorks or @HAttraffic_neast (or for trans Pennine routes) @HAttraffic_penn9 or check out the full index at www.highways.gov.uk/twitter.

6. Receive our national and regional press releases by RSS and get the latest headlines straight to your desktop the moment we publish them to our website. Choose to receive a national press feed or one of our regionalised feeds - go to www.highways.gov.uk/rssnews for more information.

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