

# East Birmingham & Solihull

## A452/A446 weekend closure toolkit



# Introduction

Huge investment in transport infrastructure around East Birmingham and Solihull is underway with HS2 constructing Britain's future high speed railway and the new HS2 Interchange Station.

Located near to the National Exhibition Centre and Birmingham International Airport, Interchange Station will be a major transport gateway for the region, providing high speed rail connections to London, Birmingham and the North of England.

To ensure that the local road network is fit for purpose when the future HS2 Interchange Station is operational, Laing O'Rourke and J. Murphy & Sons (LM) is expanding and improving the existing network and creating new routes on HS2 land.

With all these improvements happening there will be some disruption to journeys in this area and we are here to help keep you moving.

Transport for West Midlands are working closely with HS2, Highways England and LM to make sure all visitors and businesses are aware of any required road closures and are supported in sharing information across their own networks.

# What is happening?

To link the new network with existing routes, LM is building four connecting highways bridges. The first of these new bridges – a 65-metre bridge, spanning the width of the M42 – was installed on Saturday 8 August 2020. Due to careful planning, the installation was safely completed early and the motorway reopened 22 hours ahead of schedule.

To install the next bridge deck over the A446, sections of the A452 Chester Road (northbound) and A446 Stonebridge Road (northbound and southbound) between Stonebridge Island and M6 Junction 4 will be closed after evening rush hour on Friday 23 October, and reopen before morning rush hour on Monday 26 October.

If you have any questions regarding the closure, please contact the HS2 Helpdesk on:

Freephone: 08081 434 434

Email: [hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)

To receive updates about the closure, subscribe to HS2 in Solihull at [www.hs2insolihull.co.uk](http://www.hs2insolihull.co.uk)

# How are we helping?

Transport for West Midlands is striving to deliver a world-class transport system which puts people at the heart of decisions and gives everyone in the West Midlands access to the very best education, training and employment opportunities, no matter where they live in the region. Over £3.4bn is committed over the next ten years to deliver an integrated transport system which meets the needs of our rapidly growing population, while enabling economic growth.

Our main aim is to provide a consistent and joined up messaging for all those people travelling in and around the area and to encourage them to plan their journeys and help reduce congestion.

This toolkit contains some useful information which will help you communicate the upcoming A452/A446 closure to your colleagues, customers and clients and compliments a social media marketing campaign.

You can also visit our dedicated webpage:  
[wmnetwork.co.uk/east-bham-and-solihull](http://wmnetwork.co.uk/east-bham-and-solihull)

# How to use this toolkit

Please share this toolkit with your marketing and communications department to help us inform people of the A452/A446 closure in October. If you don't have a specific department, consider what information you will need to use from this pack, to communicate with your staff and customers.

Included in this toolkit:

- Suggested text suitable for digital and print channels
- Graphics for digital and print channels
- Flyer
- FAQs

All materials contained within this toolkit are 'ready to go' and can be copied and pasted into your organisation's communications templates and channels for distribution. Please ensure that all hyperlinks have carried over before circulating content.

*Please note:* At no point should any facts, such as times and dates of the closure, be altered.

# Travel advice

Travelling on the A542 or on the A446

Sections of the A452 Chester Road (northbound) and A446 Stonebridge Road (northbound and southbound) between Stonebridge Island and M6 Junction 4 will be closed after evening rush hour on Friday 23 October, and reopen before morning rush hour on Monday 26 October.

During the temporary closure, diversions will be in place and clear signage will be displayed along the route for drivers: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/HS2-works](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/HS2-works)

Travelling locally

If you travel between Birmingham and Coventry via the A45 or the A452 then look for alternative routes and leave extra time.

Travel around Solihull, Marston Green and the surrounding areas may be busier than normal. Plan ahead using apps and journey planners.

If you are travelling on the M42 between junction 6 and 7 allow extra time for your journey.

On the nearby motorways there will be advance Variable Message Signs to alert road users to the closures. There will also be advance signs on local roads to help inform motorists.

# Key messages

Plan ahead and leave more time for your journey: If you travel on or around the A452 or A446 you may need to allow more time for your journey.

Use public transport wherever possible: This is to reduce congestion in the immediate area. Fewer people are able to travel on Public Transport at the moment. If you are travelling a shorter distance, consider whether you can walk or cycle.

Think about your options: The closure of sections of the A452 and the A446 will mean that you may need to plan an alternative route. Check the latest traffic conditions before you leave using apps like Google Maps or Waze.

If you work: Speak with your employer about whether there is any flexibility in your hours of work.

And if you are an employer: Consider if there are times your team could avoid travelling altogether, such as working from home for all or part of the weekend closure.

# For those using public transport

When using public transport consider the following advice:

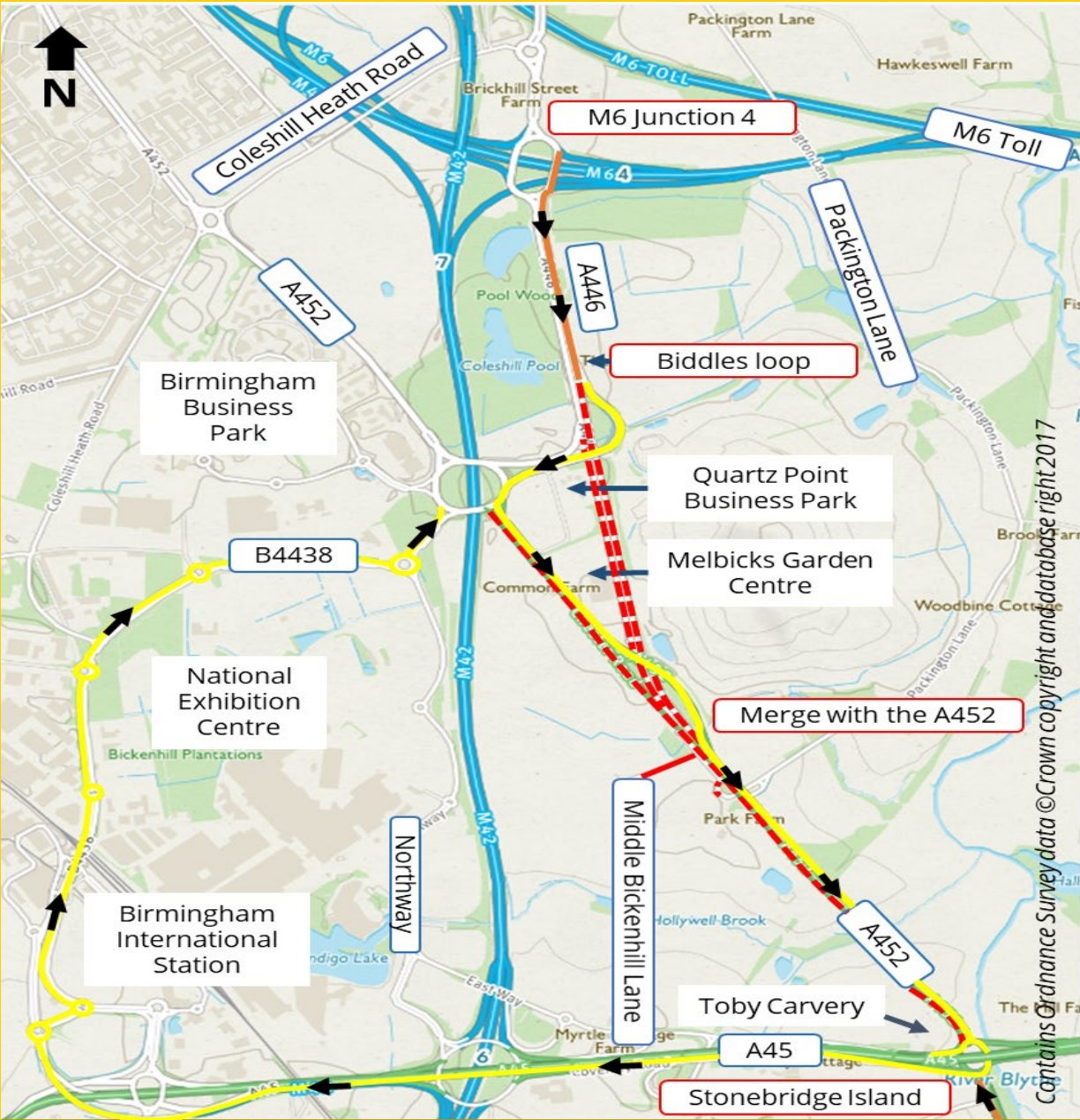
- Stay apart and wear a face covering.
- Do not crowd at doorways to get on board and leave space for people to exit.
- Do not sit next to others unless you're travelling with people from your household.
- Use mobile, smartcard or contactless payments.
- Allow extra time in case you can't get on the first service that arrives.
- When you arrive at stops or stations check for any changes to the way to you need to enter or exit. If you have Covid-19 symptoms please do not travel and follow the latest government guidance on self-isolation and shielding.
- If you sneeze or cough please use a tissue and bin this as soon as you can.
- Travel with hand sanitiser where possible in order to protect yourself and others whilst you are travelling.

# Closure and diversion routes

There will be a diversion in place throughout the closure. More details of the diversion routes can be found on the following page and [here](#).

**Key:**

- ..... = temporary road closure
- = permanent road closure
- = temporary lane closure
- = diversion route
- > = diversion route direction



# Closure and Diversion information

The specific closures which will be in place after evening rush hour on Friday 23 October 2020, and reopen before morning rush hour on Monday 26 October 2020, are:

- The A452 Chester Road northbound will be closed between Stonebridge Island and Biddles loop
- The A446 Stonebridge Road northbound will be closed between the diverge with the A452 northbound and the merge with the A452 at Biddles loop
- The A446 Stonebridge Road southbound will be closed between Biddles loop and the merge with the A452 southbound
- Packington Lane northbound will be closed at the merge with the A452 northbound. Access will remain to the A452 southbound
- Single lane closures will be in place southbound along the A446 Stonebridge Island from M6 Junction 4 to Biddles loop, and northbound along the A452 Kenilworth Road to Stonebridge Island.

The specific diversion routes which will be in place while sections of the A452 Chester Road (northbound) and A446 Stonebridge Road (northbound and southbound) are closed after evening rush hour on Friday 23 October 2020, and reopened before morning rush hour on Monday 26 October 2020, are:

- Northbound diversion from Stonebridge Island via the A45 Coventry Road and B4438 Bickenhill Lane towards Northway Island
- Southbound diversion via the A452 Chester Road towards Stonebridge Island.

**Further details can be found in our FAQs document which can be downloaded [here](#).**

# Suggested text for your material

100 words

To ensure that the road network is fit for purpose when the future HS2 Interchange Station is operational, LM will close sections of the A452 Chester Road (northbound) and A446 Stonebridge Road (northbound and southbound) between Stonebridge Island and M6 Junction 4 after evening rush hour on Friday 23 October to install a bridge deck over the A446. The roads will reopen before morning rush hour on Monday 26 October.

If you have any questions please contact the HS2 Helpdesk on:

Freephone: 08081 434 434    Email: [hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)

To receive updates about the closure, subscribe to HS2 in Solihull at [www.hs2insolihull.co.uk](http://www.hs2insolihull.co.uk)

You can download more detailed copy, between 100 and 500 words, for your digital and print channels [here](#).



# Facebook example

## A452 & A446 weekend closure

23 to 26 October

Diversions in place

Plan ahead



### Suggested text

A452/A446 PARTIAL CLOSURE ANNOUNCEMENT: Sections of the A452 Chester Road (northbound) and A446 Stonebridge Road (northbound and southbound) between Stonebridge Island and M6 Junction 4 will be closed after evening rush hour on Friday 23 October, and reopen before morning rush hour on Monday 26 October. This will enable LM, on behalf of HS2, to install one of four new connecting highways bridges in preparation for the future HS2 Interchange Station.

During the temporary closure, diversions will be in place and clear signage will be displayed along the route for drivers: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/HS2-works](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/HS2-works)

For more information, please visit: [www.hs2insolihull.co.uk](http://www.hs2insolihull.co.uk)

# Twitter example

## A452 & A446 weekend closures

23 to 26 October

Diversions in place

Plan ahead



### Suggested text

Sections of the A452 (n/b) and A446 (n/b & s/b) between Stonebridge Island & M6 Junction 4 will be closed after evening rush hour on Friday 23 October & reopen before morning rush hour on Monday 26 October. For more information, visit: [www.hs2insolihull.co.uk](http://www.hs2insolihull.co.uk)

You can download more detailed text and images for social media channels [here](#).

# Flyer

## A452/A446 Weekend Closure



Sections of A452 Chester Road (northbound) and A446 Stonebridge Road (northbound and southbound) between Stonebridge Island and M6 Junction 4 will be temporarily closed from Friday 23 October to Monday 26 October 2020.

**High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain.**

Early works for HS2 in this area are being carried out by a joint venture between Laing O'Rourke and J. Murphy & Sons (LM). To ensure that the local road network is fit for purpose when the future HS2 Interchange Station is operational, LM is expanding and improving the existing network and creating new routes on HS2 land. Located near to the National Exhibition Centre and Birmingham International Airport, Interchange Station will be a major transport gateway for the region.

To link the new network with existing routes, LM is building four connecting highways bridges. The first of these new bridges – a 65-metre bridge, spanning the width of the M42 – was safely installed on Saturday 8 August 2020.

To install the next bridge deck over the A446, sections of the A452 Chester Road (northbound) and A446 Stonebridge Road (northbound and southbound) between Stonebridge Island and M6 Junction 4 will be closed after evening rush hour on Friday 23 October, and reopen before morning rush hour on Monday 26 October.

A signed diversion route will be in place for road users. If work progresses faster than expected, the A452 and A446 will be reopened earlier if possible.

Plan ahead and leave more time for your journey.

### Contact us

Your opinion is important to us.  
If you have any questions or feedback,  
please get in touch.

**24/7 Freephone:** 08081 434 434

**Minicom:** 08081 456 472

**Email:** [HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk)

**Write to:** High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd  
Two Snowhill  
Snow Hill Queensway  
Birmingham B4 6GA

To keep up to date with the weekend  
closure and bridge desk installation,  
visit:  
[www.hs2insolihull.co.uk](http://www.hs2insolihull.co.uk)

You can download this flyer to  
upload to digital channels or  
print [here](#).

# FAQs

## A452 Chester Road/A446 Stonebridge Road Closure Communications Toolkit Creating a road network fit for the future HS2 Interchange Station

### FAQs

#### **Who is responsible for carrying out works near the future HS2 Interchange Station?**

Early works for HS2 are being carried out by a joint venture between Laing O'Rourke and J. Murphy & Sons, known as LM. LM has been carrying out works near the A452, A45 and M42 since 2018. We refer to this area as the Interchange area because it will be the home of the future HS2 Interchange Station. Located near to the National Exhibition Centre and Birmingham International Airport, Interchange Station will be a major transport gateway for the region, providing high speed rail connections to London, Birmingham and the North of England.

#### **What work is LM undertaking on the local road network in the Interchange area?**

To ensure that the local road network is fit for purpose when the future HS2 Interchange Station is operational, LM is expanding and improving the existing network and creating new routes on HS2 land. These works will be concentrated on and around Northway Island, and on the B4438 and Northway. To link the new network with existing routes, LM is building four connecting highways bridges. The first of these new bridges – a 65-metre bridge, spanning the width of the M42 – was safely installed on Saturday 8 August 2020. The 2,750-tonne bridge structure was carried along the motorway on a self-propelled modular transporter and the motorway was reopened 22 hours earlier than planned.

LM are now planning for the installation of its second highways bridge across the A446. This will require the closure of sections of the A452 Chester Road (northbound) and A446 Stonebridge Road (northbound and southbound) between Stonebridge Island and M6 Junction 4 will be closed to traffic after evening rush hour on Friday 23 October 2020, and reopen before morning rush hour on Monday 26 October 2020.

#### **When was the bridge spanning the M42 completed?**

The first of the new highways bridges – a 65-metre bridge, spanning the width of the M42 – was safely installed on Saturday 8 August 2020, in an engineering feat led by specialist engineering contractor, Expanded, and HS2 enabling works contractor, LM.

Using a 448-wheel transporter, it took just one hour and 45 minutes to move the 2,750-tonne bridge, where it was affixed to a composite concrete deck to complete the overall bridge structure. The motorway was reopened 22 hours earlier than planned. Traditional construction would have required several weeks of lane closures on both carriageways, followed by additional weekend and overnight closures.

#### **How are you minimising disruption in the area during the construction of the A446 bridge?**

To minimise disruption in the local area during construction works, LM has adopted a construction method called Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DfMA). This means that LM is making the bridge shell units off site, in a factory in Nottinghamshire. Once each unit has been finished, they are brought to the Interchange area and put together at the relevant bridge site.

Traditional methods of bridge building require prolonged road closures and disruptive equipment such as cranes. By using the DfMA method of construction, the quantity and duration of traffic

You can download this document to upload to digital channels or distribute to colleagues, customers and clients [here](#).

# Useful contacts

For more information and project updates relating to the works please visit: [wmnetwork.co.uk/east-bham-and-solihull](http://wmnetwork.co.uk/east-bham-and-solihull)

For up-to-the-minute travel information and help planning your journey:

Plan a journey	West Midlands Network	<a href="http://wmnetwork.co.uk/jp">wmnetwork.co.uk/jp</a>	<a href="https://twitter.com/wmnetwork">@wmnetwork</a>
- by bus	National Express	<a href="http://www.nxbus.co.uk">www.nxbus.co.uk</a>	<a href="https://twitter.com/nxwestmidlands">@nxwestmidlands</a>
- by train	West Midlands Trains	<a href="http://www.westmidlandsrailway.co.uk">www.westmidlandsrailway.co.uk</a>	<a href="https://twitter.com/WestMidRailway">@WestMidRailway</a>
- by Metro	West Midlands Metro	<a href="http://www.westmidlandsmetro.com">www.westmidlandsmetro.com</a>	<a href="https://twitter.com/WMMetro">@WMMetro</a>

If you would like help to support your staff and students with travel planning, drop us an email: [travelchoices@tfwm.org.uk](mailto:travelchoices@tfwm.org.uk)

If you require any campaign materials in an alternative format, get in touch: [customerservices@tfwm.org.uk](mailto:customerservices@tfwm.org.uk).

# Partners

# HS2

HS2 is a new high speed railway that will link up the North, the Midlands and South East, serving eight of Britain's 10 largest cities. It is critical for the UK's low carbon transport future and will provide much-needed rail capacity across the country. It is integral to other rail projects in the North and Midlands – helping rebalance the UK economy. For more information about HS2, please contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on 08081 434 434 or email [hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk), or for more information about the works we are doing in the Solihull area please visit [www.HS2inSolihull.co.uk](http://www.HS2inSolihull.co.uk)



Two of Europe's most prominent and innovative engineering and construction companies – Laing O'Rourke and J. Murphy & Sons Ltd – are working together in joint venture as LM, to deliver a dynamic enabling works programme for HS2's phase one across the West Midlands. We're at the forefront of major project delivery, and are applying some of the latest techniques to help prepare the route for Britain's new high speed rail line. One of the key areas in Solihull where we are undertaking enabling works on behalf of HS2 surround the site of the future HS2 Interchange Station near the A452, A45 and M42. Click [here](#) for more information.



We operate, maintain and improve England's motorways and major A roads. Our roads network is vital to the running of the country and our customers and their safety remains our priority. We are committed to working with HS2 Ltd and other partners to plan and co-ordinate our works programmes where we can. While HS2 carry out these works we will make every effort to keep you updated and informed in advance of works to help you plan your journeys and help support a better-connected future.

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

General enquiries 0300 123 5000



Solihull has a reputation for its strong competitive economy, its good schools and a high quality environment, which make it the place of choice for many to live and work. To make the most of the opportunity HS2 presents to Solihull, the Council has established the **Urban Growth Company (UGC)**. The UGC is a special purpose delivery vehicle which will lead and develop major infrastructure investment in The Hub, a key component of the Council's **UK Central** strategic economic growth area. The aim is to use the **HS2 Interchange Station** as a catalyst for sustainable economic growth. It has the potential to interweave business, leisure, retail and a brand new community based around the outstanding transport connectivity; creating new places for people to live, work and play.