

# East Birmingham & Solihull M42 weekend closure toolkit



# Introduction

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

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

**Highways England will be improving the M42 junction 6** to increase capacity to the NEC and the airport and TfWM is developing a new Sprint bus route along the A45 creating reliable bus connections between Birmingham and Solihull.

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

Transport for West Midlands are working closely with HS2, Highways England and LM to make sure all visitors and businesses are aware of the closure and are supported to keep moving.

# What is happening?

To ensure that the local road network is fit for purpose when the future HS2 Interchange Station is operational, HS2's contractor LM is expanding and improving the existing road network and creating new routes on HS2 land. In early August 2020, a key piece of work in this area will be to install a highways bridge spanning the M42. The M42 will be closed between junctions 6 and 7A (northbound) and junctions 7 and 6 (southbound) after evening rush hour on Friday 7 August 2020, and reopen before morning rush hour on Monday 10 August 2020.

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 message 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 closure to your colleagues, customers and clients and compliments a social media marketing campaign.

You can also visit our dedicated webpage - <https://www.wmnetwork.co.uk/plan-your-journey/major-roadworks-and-events/east-birmingham-and-solihull/>

# How to use this toolkit

Please share this toolkit with your marketing and communications department to help us inform people of the M42 closure in August. If you don't have a specific department, consider what information you will need to use from this pack, to communicate with your staff, customers and students.

## Included in this toolkit:

- Suggested copy suitable for digital channels
- Graphics for digital channels
- Flyer

# Travel advice:

## Travelling on the M42

A signed diversion will be in place for motorists travelling northbound from M42 J6 advising motorists to use the A45 / A452 / A446 to rejoin at M42 J9 northbound.

Southbound traffic will be signed from the M42 J9 to use the A446/A452/A45 to rejoin the M42 at J6.

If travelling north or south between the M6/M40 consider travelling via the M5.

If you are travelling to Birmingham Airport or the NEC from the M6 you will need to use M6 J4 and follow the diversion route to M42 J6. Allow extra time for all journeys.

## 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.

# Key messages:

**Plan ahead and leave more time for your journey:** If you travel on or around the M42 J6 to J7a (northbound) or J6 to J7 (southbound) 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 M42 J6 to J7a (northbound) and J6 to J7 (southbound) 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.

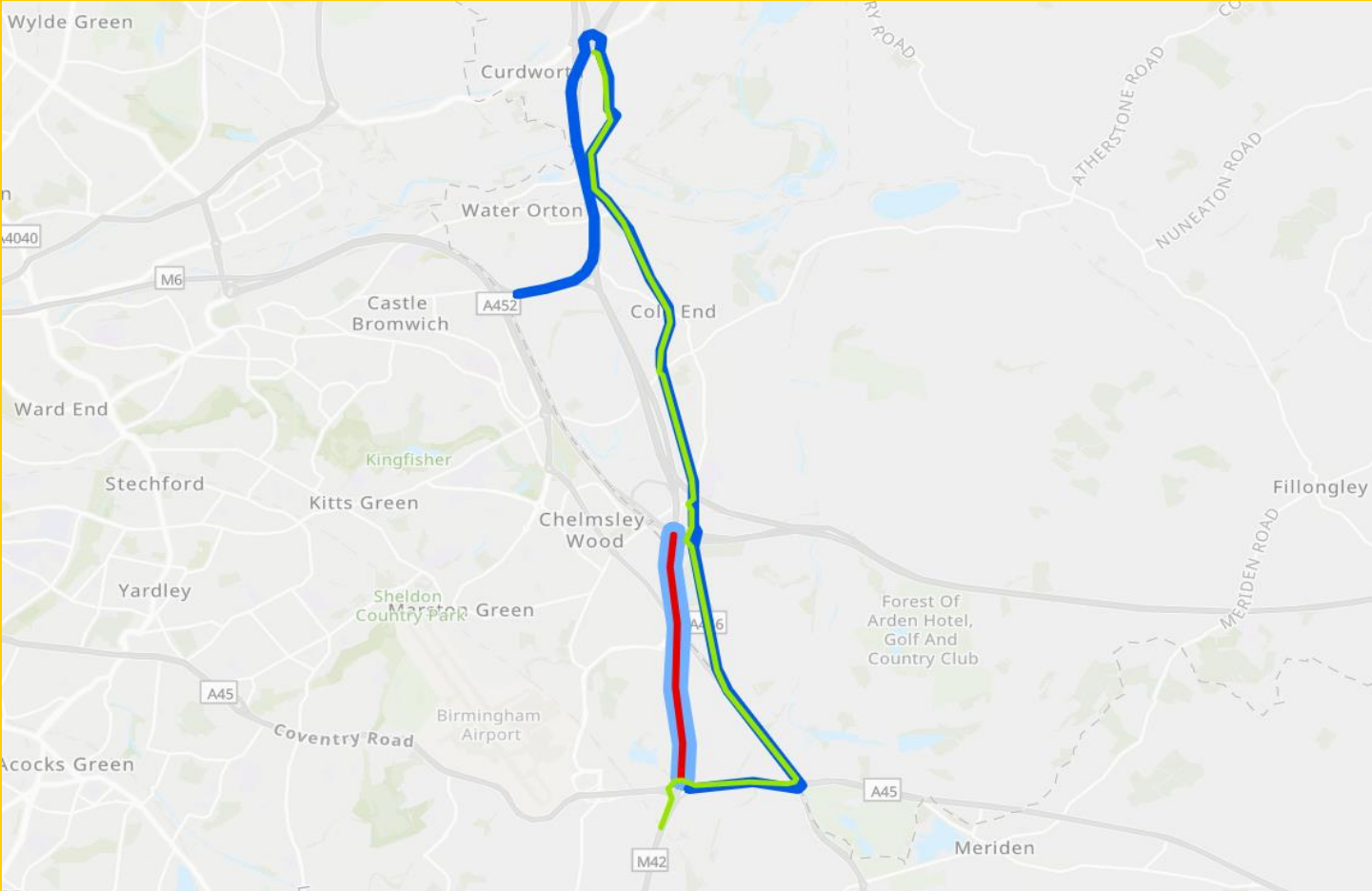
# For those using public transport

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.

# Diversion routes

There will be diversions in place throughout the works. More details of these diversions can be found [here](#)



# Suggested copy for your material

## Travelling on the M42:

The M42 will be closed between junctions 6 and 7A (northbound) and junctions 7 and 6 (southbound) after evening rush hour on Friday 7 August 2020, and will reopen before morning rush hour on Monday 10 August 2020. A signed diversion route will be in place.

This is to facilitate the installation by LM of one of several new connecting highways bridges in the HS2 Interchange Station area.

You can still get to where you need to go but you'll need to follow the diversion, plan ahead and leave more time for journeys.

[Find out more](#)

## Travelling locally:

The M42 will be closed between junctions 6 and 7A (northbound) and junctions 7 and 6 (southbound) after evening rush hour on Friday 7 August 2020, and will reopen before morning rush hour on Monday 10 August 2020.

This means that there will be more traffic on local roads and travelling around Solihull, Marston Green and surrounding areas may take longer, so plan ahead and leave extra time.

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

[Find out more](#)



# Facebook example

**M42 weekend closure**  
7-10 August

**Diversions in place**  
**Plan Ahead**



## Suggested text

The M42 will be closed between junctions 6 and 7A (northbound) and junctions 7 and 6 (southbound) after evening rush hour on Friday 7 August 2020, and will reopen before morning rush hour on Monday 10 August 2020.

This is to facilitate the installation by LM of one of several new connecting highways bridges in the HS2 Interchange Station area.

You can still get to where you need to go but you'll need to follow the diversion, plan ahead and leave more time for journeys: <https://www.wmnetwork.co.uk/plan-your-journey/major-roadworks-and-events/east-birmingham-and-solihull/>

# Twitter example

**M42 weekend closure**  
7 – 10 August

**Diversions in place**  
**Plan Ahead**



## Suggested text

The M42 will be closed between J6 and 7A (northbound) and J7 and 6 (southbound) after evening rush hour on Friday 7 August 2020, and will reopen before morning rush hour on Monday 10 August 2020.

You can still get to where you need to go but you'll need to follow the diversion, plan ahead and leave more time for journeys: <https://www.wmnetwork.co.uk/plan-your-journey/major-roadworks-and-events/east-birmingham-and-solihull/>

You can download these assets [here](#)



# A4 Flyer



## M42 temporary closure

The M42 between junctions 6 and 7A (northbound) and junctions 7 and 6 (southbound) will be temporarily closed from Friday 7 August to Monday 10 August 2020

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



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, the 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 link the new network with existing routes, LM will build four connecting highways bridges. The first of these new bridges will span the M42.

To install the bridge deck, **the M42 between junctions 6 and 7A (northbound) and junctions 7 and 6 (southbound) will be closed after evening rush hour on Friday 7 August, and reopen before morning rush hour on Monday 10 August.**

A signed diversion route will be in place for road users. If work progresses faster than expected, the M42 will be reopened earlier if possible.

Subscribe for news updates about HS2 in Solihull, including the M42 closure, at [www.hs2insolihull.co.uk](http://www.hs2insolihull.co.uk)

### 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)

### Write to:

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited  
Two Snowhill  
Snow Hill Queensway  
Birmingham B4 6GA

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

To keep up to date with what is happening in your area, visit:

[www.hs2insolihull.co.uk](http://www.hs2insolihull.co.uk)

Please contact us if you'd like a free copy of this document in large print, Braille, audio or easy read. You can also contact us for help and information in a different language.



You can download this flyer [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.