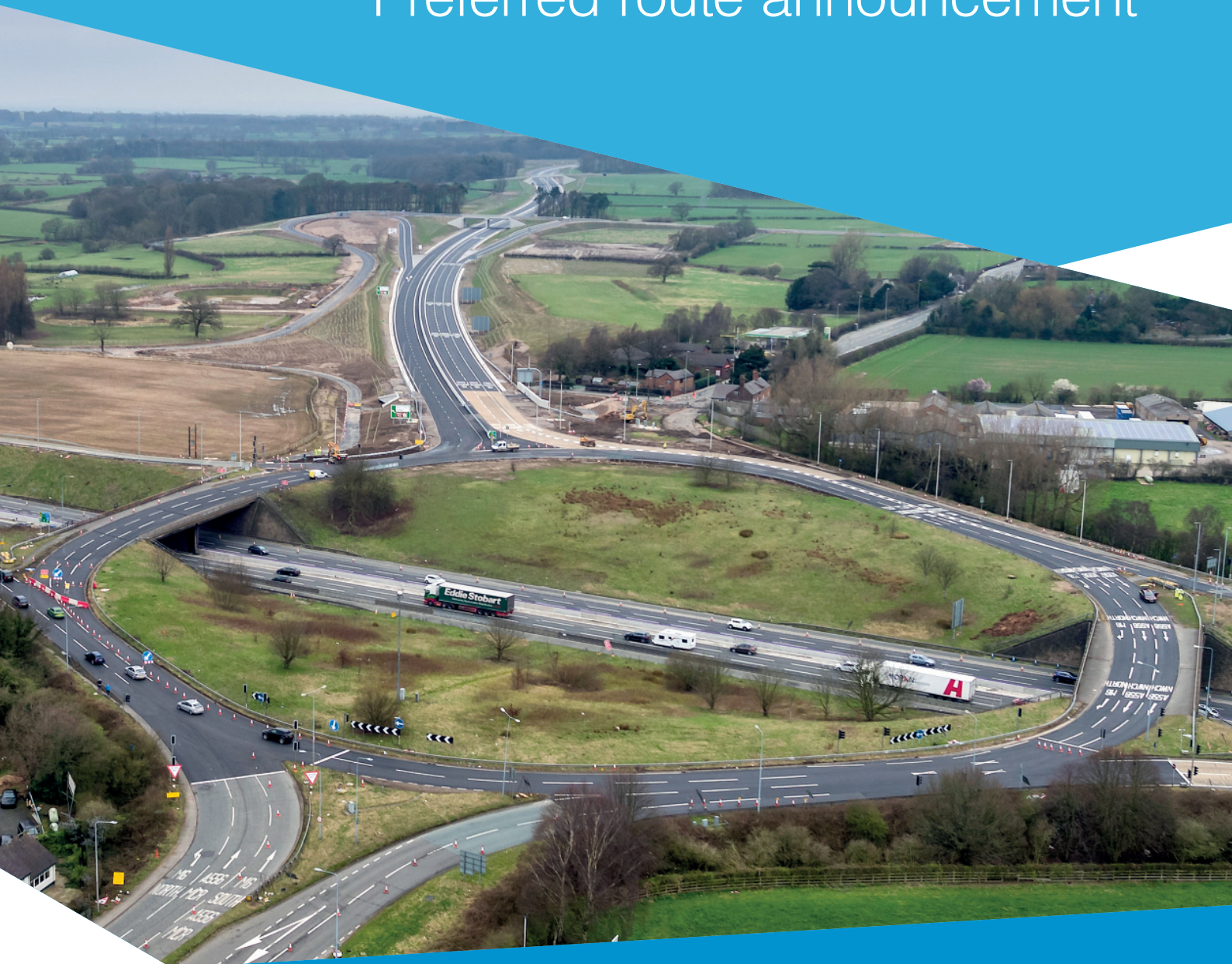


M6

Junction 19 improvement scheme

Preferred route announcement





Introduction

The M6 junction 19 improvement scheme is part of our programme of investment in the strategic road network in this area of Cheshire in support of the Northern Powerhouse growth agenda for the region. The scheme is vital in reducing congestion for the future, improving safety and journey time reliability for all road users and increasing connectivity between local areas. This scheme builds on other investment in the area, such as the M6 Smart Motorway scheme which is currently being built and the A556 Knutsford to Bowdon improvement scheme, which recently opened to traffic.

Why is the scheme needed?

Junction 19 on the M6 is currently at capacity with delays at the junction during busy peak times. We need more capacity if the junction is to continue to meet our objective of providing a safe, free-flowing and accessible network.

The scheme's objectives

Making improvements to the junction will lead to a number of benefits. The scheme will:

- reduce congestion immediately and in the future;
- improve safety and journey time reliability;
- provide better links between local areas;
- improve access to the M56 and Manchester Airport;
- contribute to economic growth along the M6 corridor in Cheshire and Lancashire;
- improve access to key employment locations such as Airport City;
- improve access to Crewe and Mid-Cheshire; and
- enhance the capacity of the Strategic Road Network.

Public consultation

We held a public consultation in summer 2016 which presented two options for improving the junction:

- **Option A** – provides a double cut through linking those leaving the M6 northbound to the northbound A556 and those leaving the M6 southbound to the A556 southbound. All other links would use the existing roundabout.
- **Option B** – provides a segregated lane between the A556 northbound and the M6 northbound, as well as wider lanes on the existing roundabout. This option would need a third lane to be added to the A556 northbound exit.

We held two public exhibition events for local residents and stakeholders where we provided more information about the proposals and welcomed their input.

Responses to public consultation

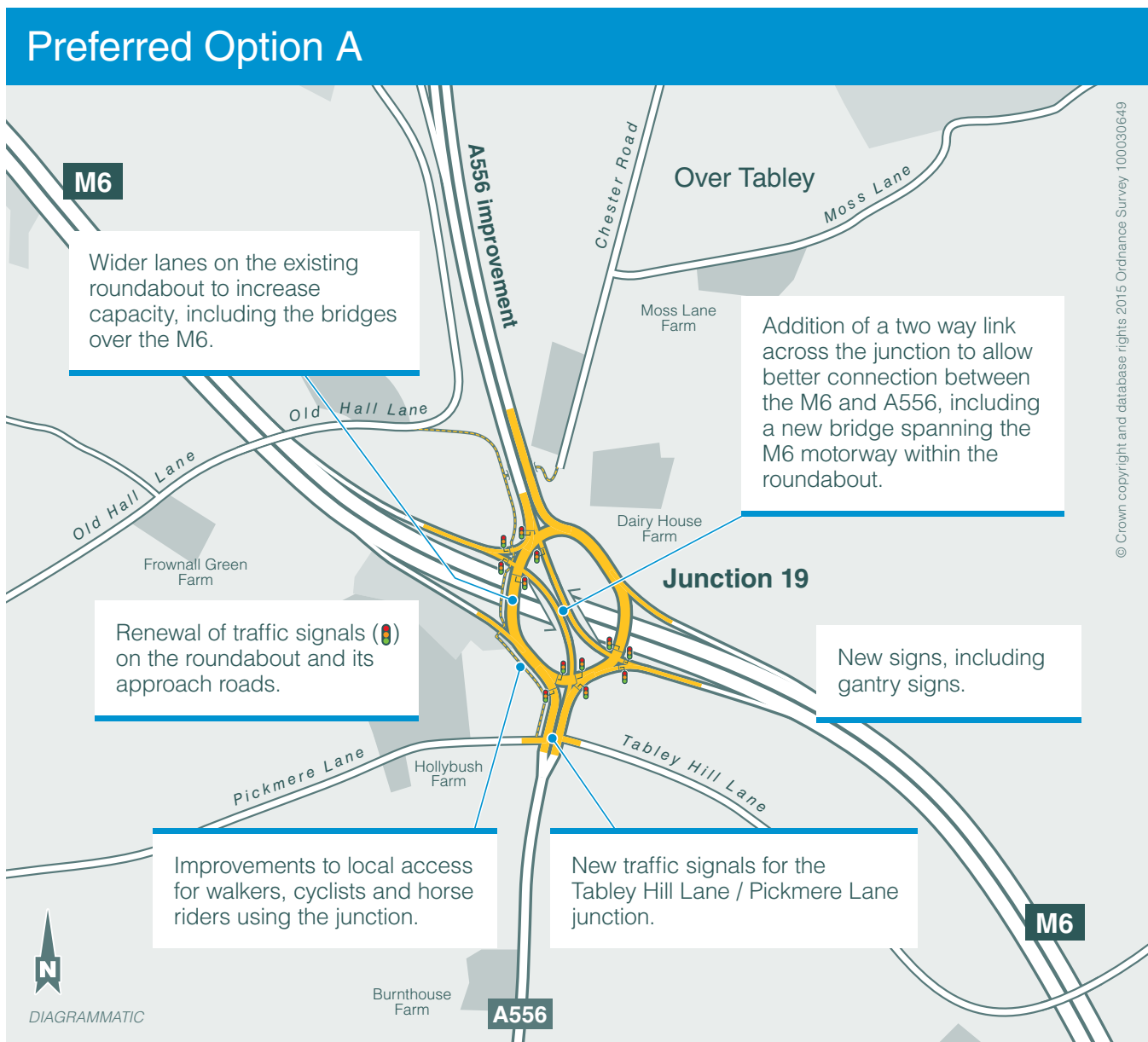
We received 98 responses to the consultation. More than three-quarters (75 out of 98) preferred Option A. Respondents felt this option provided a better solution for both current and future amounts of traffic using the junction. Further comments suggested that Option B was less popular because it moved the road closer to residents in Holly Grove and involved removing some of the trees near the Windmill Inn. As a result we developed a new option - Option B Amended, which is the same as Option B except there is no provision of the segregated left hand lane between the A556 northbound and the M6 northbound.

We assessed the three Options (A, B and B Amended). While Option A was more expensive it also reduced congestion at the junction for longer than Options B or B Amended.

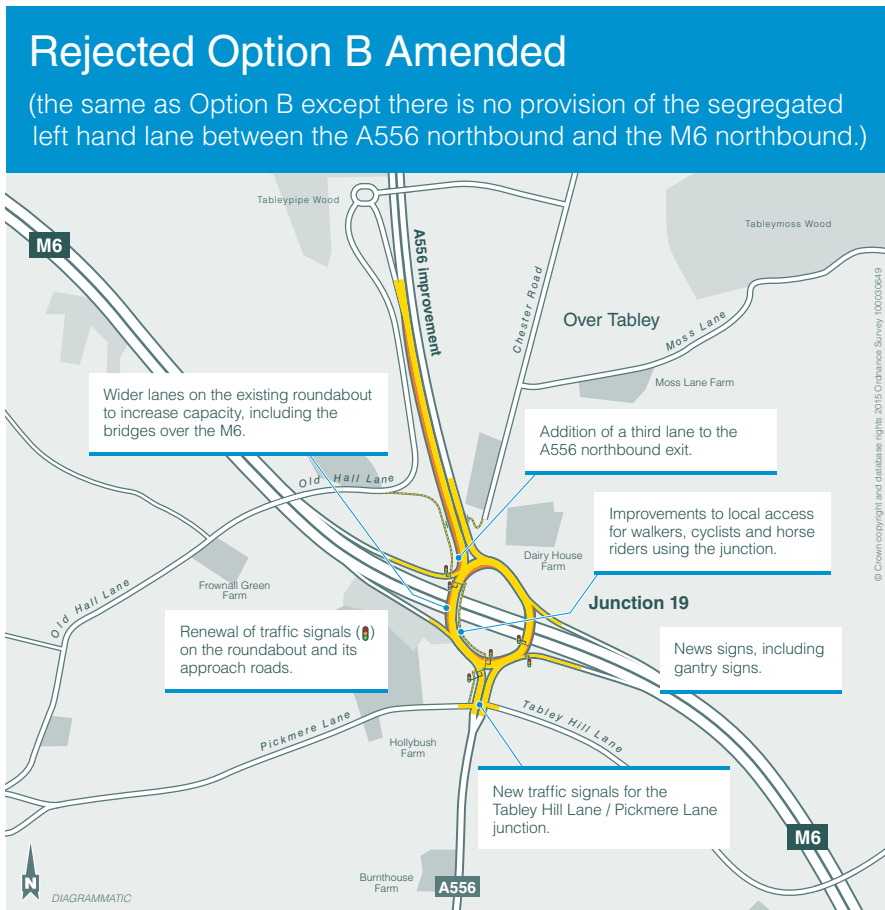
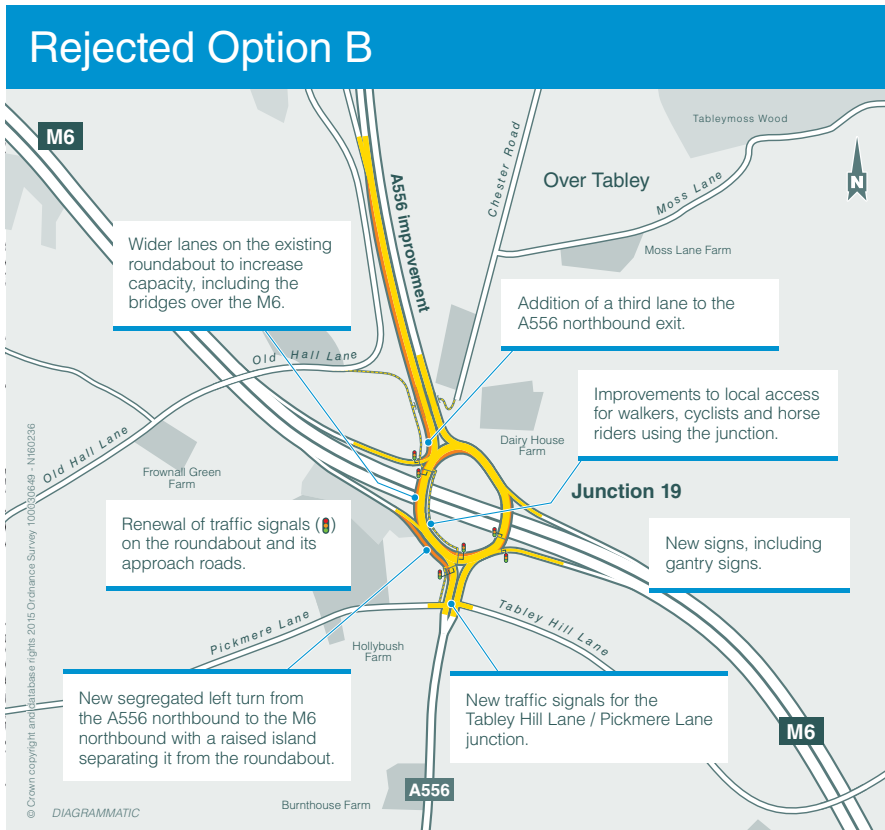
Comments from the local council

As part of the consultation process, we received responses from Cheshire East Council (the local authority) and Tabley Parish Council (representing the local community at M6 junction 19).

Both councils stated their preference for Option A. It was indicated that Option A would be a better long term solution and safer for road users.



Rejected options



Preferred route announcement

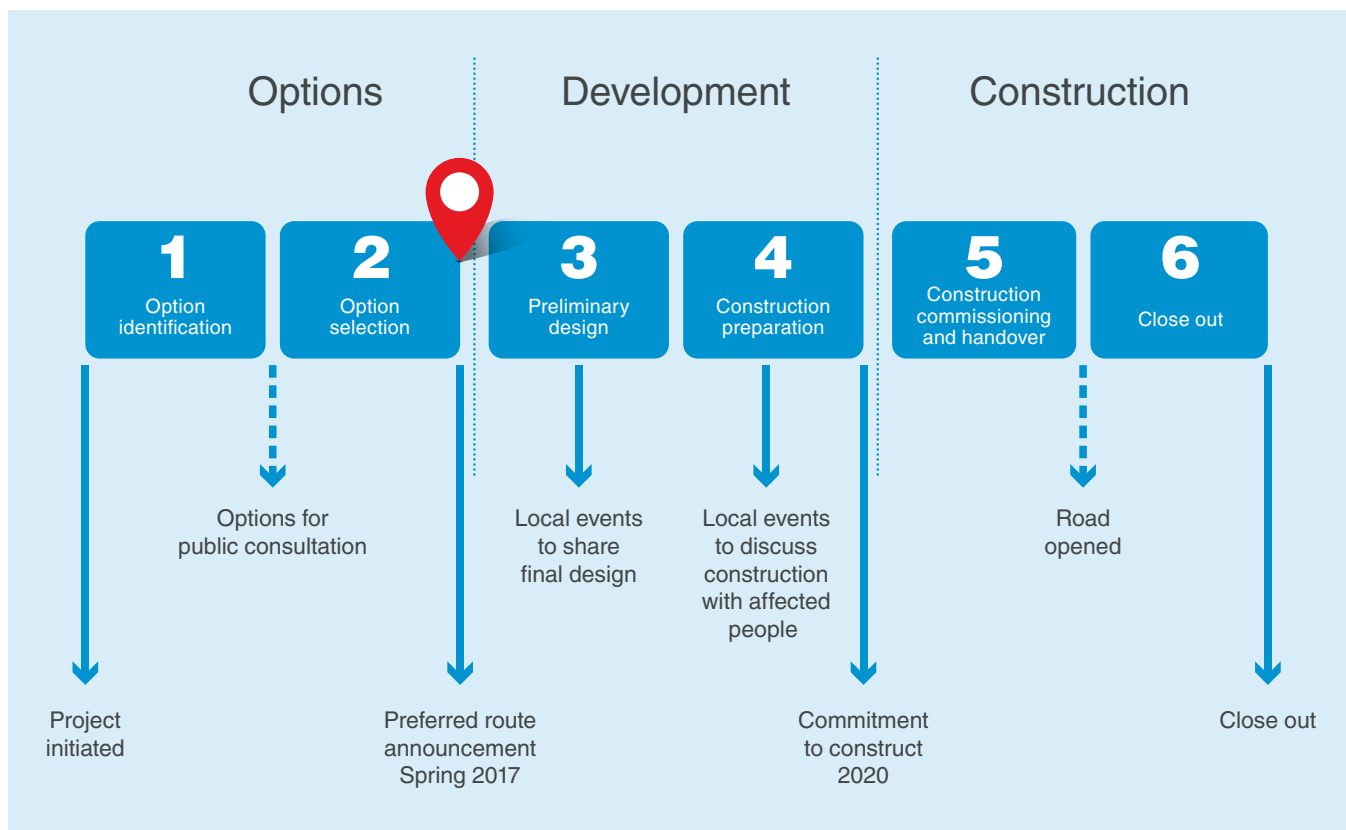
We have chosen Option A for improving Junction 19 of the M6. Although Option A is more expensive than Option B, it will provide extra capacity at the junction that will accommodate growth further into the future. Option A ensures that this key junction will be able to manage traffic flows from both the new A556 and the M6 Smart Motorways projects once complete.

The proposed Options B and B Amended did not solve congestion problems at the junction for the same length of time. This would have meant that we would need to return to the junction to make further improvements in the future.

Next steps

The timeline below shows what will happen at each stage of the scheme. We are currently at the end of Stage 2 – Option Selection, which concludes with this preferred route announcement. Now we've announced our preferred route, we will carry out surveys and investigations to allow us to design the scheme in more detail. Local events will be held over autumn 2017, where we will share the final design of the scheme and discuss construction prior to starting.

We currently expect work to start on site no later than March 2020.



Further information

Information about the project is available online at www.highways.gov.uk/M6-Junction19 and you can receive updates about the scheme by signing up for our newsletter on the same page.

You can get in touch using any of the following methods:

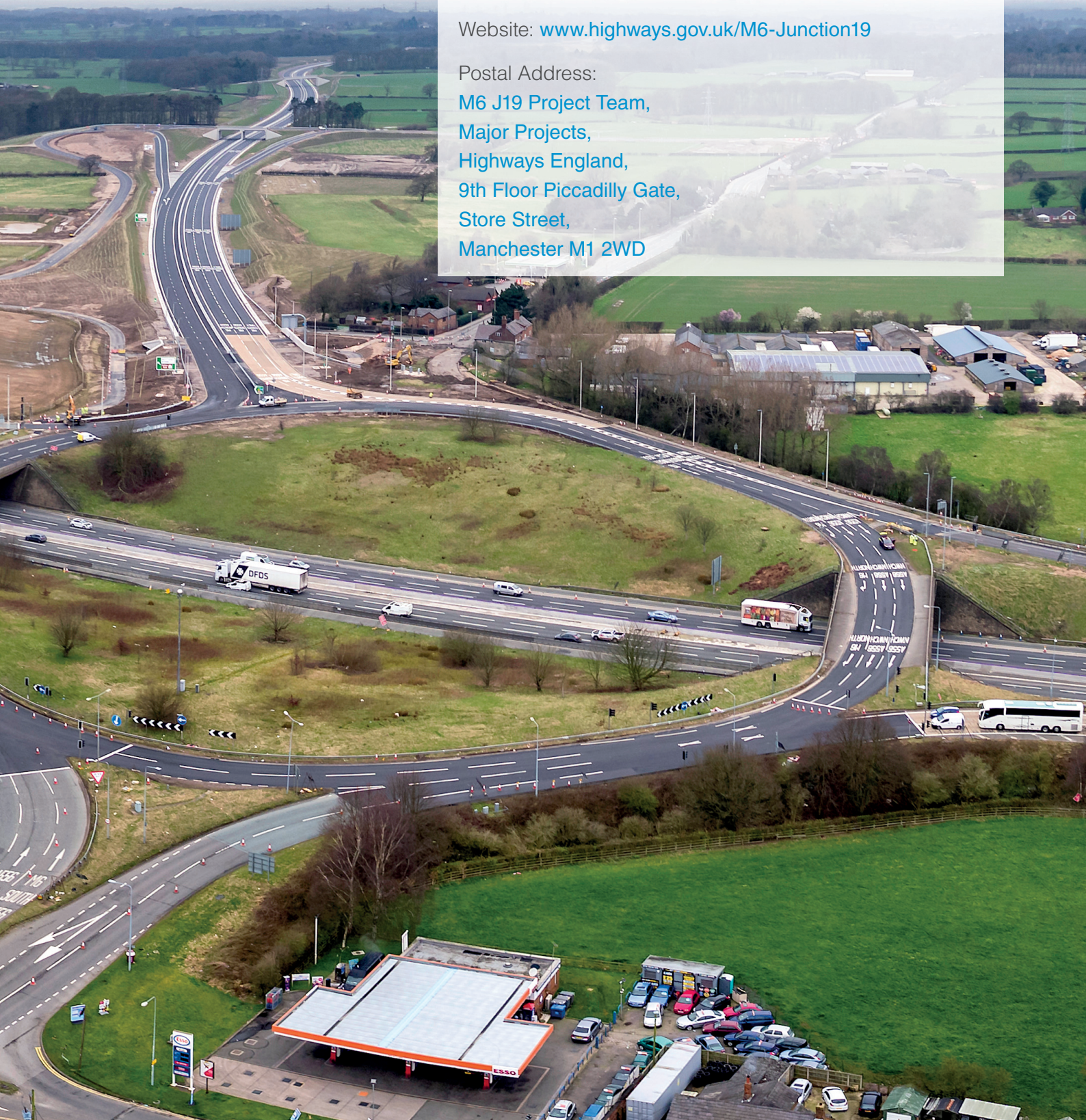
Email: M6Junction19Improvement@highwaysengland.co.uk

Telephone: **0300 123 5000**
(9.00am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday)

Website: www.highways.gov.uk/M6-Junction19

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