

Dear Colleagues,

M20 closure to enable new footbridge to be installed as part of J10A scheme

Highways England has asked us to share information about work to install a new footbridge across the M20 at Kingsford Street in Ashford on the weekend of 24-25 November.

The bridge will span more than 58m (190ft) over the motorway, and will help people to cross by foot or by bicycle. It is being installed as part of the £102m J10A project to upgrade our local transport infrastructure and create much-needed additional road capacity. To complete the work safely, the M20 will be closed while the installation is being carried out.

Highways England appreciate that roadworks can be disruptive and by completing this significant milestone for this project at a weekend it hopes to keep disruption to a minimum.

The Kingsford Street bridge, which will replace the existing Highfield bridge, will link Kingsford Street to the A20 Hythe Road and is designed for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians. The central span of the bridge will be installed over the weekend.

While the installation takes place, the M20 will be closed between Junction 9 and 11 coast-bound and Junction 11 and 10 London-bound, from 8pm on Saturday 24 November to 10am on Sunday 25 November.

Signposted diversions will be provided to ensure the most suitable routes around the closed portions of the motorway. Extensive signage will be provided on the M20, M25 and M26 to encourage through traffic to be diverted well away from the Ashford region.

Highways England has provided the following interesting facts about the new Kingsford Street footbridge:

- The footbridge has been built by Nusteel Structures in Hythe
- 20 people were involved in building the bridge
- The bridge weighs 45 tonnes – equivalent to nine hippos!
- Nusteel Structures and Jacobs designed the bridge, which took six weeks to build

Gerry Clarkson CBE, BA (Hons)

Leader -Ashford Borough Council

Distribution: All Members of the Parish or Town Council, and representatives of the Community Forums (Please do not circulate beyond the above recipients)