

**THE PLANNING ACT 2008**

**M4 (JUNCTIONS 3 TO 12) (SMART MOTORWAY) DEVELOPMENT CONSENT  
ORDER APPLICATION**

**TR010019**

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**Document 1, Appendix 1**  
**Campaign for Better Transport Campaign**  
**Deadline I - 2 October 2015**

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## How to register as an objector to a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project

### M4 Junction 3-12 Smart Motorway, June 2015

Registering as an interested party in a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project examination is really straightforward. Statements have to be very short, and making an initial representation does not commit you to taking any further action even if you tick yes to some of the options.

**So here's how to fill in the form on the Planning Inspectorate's website:**

The M4 Smart Motorway Scheme registration form is here:

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/south-east/m4-junctions-3-to-12-smart-motorway/?ipcsection=relreps>

#### 1. About you and anyone you may be representing

[Just fill in your details]

#### 2. Interest in land

[Generally answer NO to this unless you have land that is likely to be compulsorily purchased]

#### 3. Your representation

[Outline your main objections to the scheme. Note you only have 500 words to do this so you don't have to go into great detail and can just provide headlines or bullet points as below or add more detail if a particular stretch of the widening scheme will affect you in particular ways.]

*I object to the proposed scheme because:*

1. **The increase in air, noise and light pollution that widening the road and removing the hard shoulder will create** – traffic will increase on the motorway itself and on roads leading to it, as well as the surrounding road network. Air pollution will be higher than estimated by Highways England because vehicles have been shown to create much more pollution in real-life driving conditions than they do in the test situations used to assess the impact of the road.
2. **Concerns about safety** – the Smart Motorway design has no hard shoulder and only short safety refuge points at the side of the road, spaced 2.5 km apart. The Institute of Advanced Motorists and Metropolitan Police have expressed their concerns, and Highways England's own safety estimates for Smart Motorways show they are not as safe as the original 'Managed Motorways' that only used the hard shoulder at peak times.
3. **Increase in carbon emissions** – calculated by Highways England at more than 4 million extra tonnes of carbon over 60 years.
4. **The lack of consideration of alternative ideas** – such as putting in 'Smart' technology without an extra lane, improving public transport services along the motorway or reducing the need for short journeys by car
5. **The impact on the landscape**

[You don't have to use all of these, just the ones you agree with or think are most relevant. Also, it is always better if you can rephrase the points in your own words.]

#### 4. Participation in the examination

This section asks you the following questions:

- *Do you intend to attend the preliminary hearing?*
- *Do you intend to submit a written representation at a later stage?*
- *If an open floor hearing is held, would you like the opportunity to speak at it?*
- *If an issue specific hearing is held relating to an issue raised by your representation, would you like to have the opportunity to speak at it?*

[We suggest you answer YES to all of these. Answering YES does not commit you to doing anything else but it does keep your options open and shows you are serious in your concerns.]

**Finally, just fill in the CAPTCHA code and press 'Send Form'**

[You should then receive confirmation of your registration at some later point]

#### References:

[no need to put these in your submission as the Planning Inspectorate has all the key evidence already, but for you to check if you would like]

#### Pollution:

Sunday Times investigation into real-world emissions from vehicles (currently not behind the paywall):

[http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk\\_news/Health/article1560169.ece](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Health/article1560169.ece)

Campaign for Better Transport's response to the scheme consultation, with a table of locations most affected by new pollution: [http://bettertransport.org.uk/sites/default/files/research-files/M4\\_J3-12\\_comments\\_Feb2015\\_FINAL.pdf](http://bettertransport.org.uk/sites/default/files/research-files/M4_J3-12_comments_Feb2015_FINAL.pdf)

#### Safety:

Smart Motorway safety info from Highways England:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/363993/Smart\\_motorways\\_-\\_Fact\\_Sheets.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/363993/Smart_motorways_-_Fact_Sheets.pdf)

Concerns from the Institute of Advanced Motorists: <http://www.localgov.co.uk/Smart-motorways-confusing-motorists-says-charity/38514>

Consultation report pages 107 and 159 with responses from the Metropolitan Police and other emergency services: <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010019/2.%20Post-Submission/Application%20Documents/Reports/5-1-Consultation-Report.pdf>

#### Carbon emissions:

Given in the Appraisal Summary Table on the final page of the Socio-Economic report:

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010019/2.%20Post-Submission/Application%20Documents/Other%20Documents/7-2-SocioEconomicReport.pdf>

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# The smart response to M4 widening proposals



11.06.2015 | [Sian Berry](#) | Roads to nowhere

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Motorway widening from London to Reading is being planned and we need your voice to object to these dangerous and polluting proposals now.

You currently have until midnight on Friday 3 July to register your concerns about Highways England's £900 million proposals to turn a large part of the M4 into a 'Smart Motorway'.

Making a motorway 'smart' does not mean giving it a lick of paint, or doing a better job at clearing up rubbish, it means introducing traffic management systems to make better use of the existing capacity by smoothing vehicle speeds. If that was all it was about, it wouldn't be too bad, and is how the previous 'Managed Motorways' worked.

All this new technology is the end of the smart bit, however, and the rest of the proposal is decidedly stupid:

- The key difference with 'Smart Motorways' is that they also involve widening the road. Highways England wants to permanently increase capacity of the M4 by taking over the hard shoulder and using it as another lane for traffic.
- Therefore, not only are these plans going to increase traffic, they will make air pollution worse across a large area of west London and Berkshire where it is already above legal limits. (See [our consultation response](#) for more detail on this)
- At a stroke these plans will undermine safety, as the loss of the hard shoulder as a place to stop in an emergency cannot be replaced by putting small refuges every 2.5km. The lack of hard shoulder is shown by Highways England's own reports to make roads more dangerous for anyone who is unlucky enough to break down on it, and for any rescue services trying to get people moving again. The police have already objected to the scheme
- The extra lanes of traffic will also increase carbon emissions. In total, the plans would put an extra four million tonnes of CO2 into the atmosphere.

## If you think this scheme sounds like a bad idea, please register your objection now.

It's really easy to do; just [head to the Government's consultation page to respond](#), and if you're unsure about any details, [you can read our guide to registering an objection here](#). For more information, guidance on what to say and a link to the Planning Inspectorate registration form, visit [Reading Friends of the Earth's website](#) or see the leaflet below.

The project is being considered for planning permission as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, which means that anyone, wherever they live, can register their objections - not just people in the local area.

- [Download a copy of the leaflet/poster here and help publicise this call to action](#)

**WE NEED YOUR VOICE TO STOP**

**M4 Junctions 3-12 WIDENING**

*More traffic. more dangerous. more polluting.*

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

Please take action:

1. Register your objection before Friday 3 July - see box.
2. Ask colleagues, friends and members of interest groups to register as soon as possible.

**TO REGISTER:**

Go to: [www.readingfoe.org.uk/m4](http://www.readingfoe.org.uk/m4)

Road building

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Highways England is planning to spend nearly a billion pounds converting the hard shoulder and creating a 'Smart Motorway'.

The extra lanes would increase traffic across a wide area, which would increase air pollution in areas already above legal limits.

The plans would put an extra four million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere.

Motorists and emergency services are concerned that with no hard shoulders the road would be more dangerous.






**Air Quality Management Areas around the M4**

London Air Quality Management Areas

**This is your last chance to object!**


Highways England is applying for planning permission for the M4 as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

**Please act now before Friday 3 July - see over for details**


Information from:   

3. Write to your local paper to alert others about the consultation.


Completing the registration form does not oblige you to take any further action.



The project will involve lane shifts between 11 and 17 miles of the M4.



Identifying the last shoulder to be removed will be a challenge.



How it has been reduced in terms of road length is shown in the diagram below.

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**This will give you a link to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) website**

**Fill in the short form giving your name, contact details and brief reasons why you oppose the M4 Smart Motorway** (for example, the increase in traffic, noise and air pollution, reduced safety or high cost)

The webpage above also has a guide to how to answer the questions, and key facts about the problems.

**Remember to do this before midnight on Friday 3 July**

Late registrations will not be accepted.

If you do not have access to a computer, you can ring the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) helpline on 0303 444 5000 and ask for a paper copy of the registration form.

**Don't let them get away with ignoring public opinion - please complete a form TODAY.**




East of England

Submit

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<p>Roads</p> <p><b>Object now to the Hereford Southern Link Road</b></p> <p>written by: Sian Berry</p>  <p>Vicki from Hereford is working to stop a proposed Southern Link Road destroying ancient woods, nature sites and heritage in her city. Read her guest blog post and lend your support to her campaign.</p>	<p>Roads</p> <p><b>Victory in Hastings: permission for Gateway road quashed</b></p> <p>written by: Sian Berry</p>  <p>Local council backs out of a High Court case and agrees to cancel permission for the illegally polluting Queensway Gateway Road.</p>	<p>Roads</p> <p><b>What is wrong with the proposed Belvedere Crossing scheme?</b></p> <p>written by: Steve Chambers</p>  <p>What exactly is wrong with this proposal? Tony Fairbairn is a local campaigner in Bexley and he has been looking at the scheme.</p>
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