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Sent: 23 October 2024 12:22
Subject: Saltash Tunnel Technology Upgrade - Update 17 October 2024

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TO: South East Cornwall Community Area Partnership

Dear All

Please see latest update below from National Highways for your information.



Saltash Tunnel Technology upgrade

Update on Saltash Tunnel Technology upgrade scheme

17 October 2024

We're undertaking a major modernisation upgrade of the A38 Saltash Tunnel in Cornwall. This represents a £25 million investment from National Highways to improve journeys and maintain the safe operation of the tunnel for many years to come.

These essential upgrade works will help to:

- keep everyone using the tunnel safe
- provide more reliable journeys
- reduce the risk of unplanned closures.

We've been undertaking preparatory works within the tunnel over the past year. This includes:

- the identification, tagging and removal of old cabling from within the tunnel ducts
- cleaning, jetting and re-roping the cable ducts
- removal of cladding panels to survey for the new tunnel gantries
- installation of new fibre optics under the Tamar Bridge.

These works will continue over the coming months as planned. The preparatory works should also help to prevent future delays with the scheme as possible, unforeseen issues will have been identified and resolved during these works. Most of these preparatory works can be completed

with the tunnel open for traffic. However, we will need carry out some of the works under nighttime tunnel closures. We will provide advance notice of these closures when dates are confirmed.

As with any complex scheme, dates are subject to change while commercial and programming decisions are finalised. Until these final details have been confirmed we won't be starting the civils work required on the approaches to the tunnel and the Tamar Bridge. While this means we won't be starting this phase as soon as we'd hoped, we will still be moving forward with the preparatory works.

We are now fine tuning the programme of works for the scheme which includes the associated traffic management plans. The works will continue to be phased, and we will share full details as soon possible.

Current proposed key dates and traffic management

Please note, these are subject to change as the programme and approach is refined.

Early 2025 to late 2025

The tunnel will be closed in both directions on weeknights with traffic using local diversion routes.

By closing the tunnel only at night, we can reduce the impact on the local community and drivers.

During this period, for a time, one lane will be narrowed on the eastern approach to the Tamar Bridge.

Summer 2025 for 5 months

'The Switch-off'. The tunnel and bridge will no longer operate on a tidal flow basis.

Fixed lanes will be in operation with clear directions for each lane, until work is complete.

More details about the works including weeknight tunnel closures, lane closures, and speed restrictions, will be available on our dedicated webpage as the scheme progresses:

nationalhighways.co.uk/saltashtunnel

If you have any questions, call us on **0300 123 5000** or email info@nationalhighways.co.uk

Please note: all enquiries should be directed to National Highways, and not to Tamar Bridge which is independently owned and operated by Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council.

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With kind regards,

Lisa Grigg | Communities Support Assistant

Cornwall Council | Resilient Communities | Neighbourhoods Directorate

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