

### **General Phase 3 update** (13th May 2016)

work is progressing according to schedule and our contractors are expected to start on the next sub-phase of work (between the Norton and Whittington Roundabouts) shortly after the Spring Bank Holiday at the end of May. That phase of work is expected to be completed by Spring 2017. During the work there will be the need for some traffic management, mostly consisting of lane closures and speed restrictions - and occasional night working. As ever we will advertise the lane closures via on-site variable message signs, through the media and on the County Council website.

### **Night works planned as part of Southern Link Road improvements**

Night works are scheduled next week (w/c 16 May) as part of the ongoing Southern Link Road improvements.

Work is due to start on the removal of overhead Western Power cables and the installation of ducts and drainage culverts close to the Norton roundabout on the A4440 Norton to Ketch carriageway.

These works will take place over five nights from Monday 16 May to Friday 20 May, commencing at 8pm and running until 6am to ensure that traffic disruption is minimised.

Traffic lights with single lane operation will also be in place from 8pm to 6am on the Norton-Ketch arm of the A4440.

The programme is one of the biggest upgrades to the road infrastructure in the County for many years. The scheme has been identified as one of the highest priorities in terms of tackling both current and future levels of congestion, which is a significant barrier to economic growth.

The Southern Link Road is used by around 30,000 vehicles each weekday and suffers from severe congestion at peak times. Modelling forecasts a worsening picture where doing nothing would result in a 30 per cent increase in journey times by 2026.

The current phase of work which is progressing according to programme is focused on improving the Norton Roundabout ahead of the further dualling which is due to begin shortly.

The benefits of delivering the scheme include:

- Improving transport links and infrastructure, which will boost the local economy.
- Contributing towards reducing traffic congestion in the city centre, residential areas and on the Southern Link Road.
- Reducing journey times.
- Improving journey time reliability.

Funding for the improvements comes from a number of sources including £16.4 million from the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership as part of the Government's Growth Deal and £16.3million provisionally allocated from the South Worcestershire Urban Extension development programme.

For more information about the A4440 Southern Link Road improvements, go to [http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20055/strategies\\_and\\_plans\\_and\\_bids/1017/the\\_a4440\\_worcester\\_southern\\_link\\_road\\_improvements/3](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20055/strategies_and_plans_and_bids/1017/the_a4440_worcester_southern_link_road_improvements/3)