**Our ref: SVD/003**

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Dear Stakeholder,

**Stopped Vehicle Detection Project – works update**

I'm writing to let you know that from January 2021 we are planning to upgrade motorways across the country with enhanced stopped vehicle detection. Every motorway where the hard shoulder has been converted to a permanent running lane will have new technology by March 2023.

The upgrades will help us spot stranded vehicles more quickly, helping to provide earlier warnings to drivers on approach, and getting assistance to customers faster. It will reduce the overall length of time that people are stuck in a live lane for, and the potential for secondary incidents in queuing traffic.

From **4 January 2021** until the end of March**,** we will begin installing this technology at the side of the road on the M20 near you in Kent between junction 3, at the M26 merge near West Malling and junction 5 for Aylesford.

**About our roadworks**

Most of this upgrade work will be carried out overnight from **8pm to 5am** using temporary lane closures with all restrictions removed during the day.

We may need to cut back some vegetation during night shifts to ensure the Stopped Vehicle Detection equipment can see the road, but we will keep this to a minimum and we don't expect to have to remove any mature trees. Towards the end of the upgrade work, we may need to close the road overnight for testing and commissioning work.

**How it works**

This new technology will complement the existing safety systems along the motorway and will monitor the motorway in both directions, detecting the kind of disruptions to traffic flow that could be caused by incidents like breakdowns. Once detected, the

system alerts Highways England's control room teams who can then quickly locate the scene on CCTV and make an informed decision on how best to respond.

This can include closing lanes, lowering the speed limit and setting signs and signals informing other road users of conditions ahead. The operators quickly assess the situation and allocate the appropriate resources to rescue the vehicle and its occupants.

Using radar means that there is a significant reduction in time taken for the control room operators to be notified of problems and verify the presence of stationary vehicles, significantly reducing the chance of another collision.

**Further information**

We would like to apologise in advance for any disturbance this work may cause. We will ensure all noisy equipment is switched off when not in use and minimise disruption wherever we can. Some temporary lighting will be needed for safety reasons but, where possible, this will be angled away from residential properties. Our operatives will be briefed on the importance of considerate night time working.

**How to contact us**

If you would like to discuss this work, or need further information, please contact Highways England on 0300 123 5000 or email StoppedVehicleDetection@highwaysengland.co.uk.

For general information on our projects, you can also visit www.highwaysengland.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

S O'Neil

**Sean O'Neil**
**Project Manager, Highways England**