

From: Programme Development Manager SE, Team Leader
Sent: 25 July 2023 12:58
To: GOVE, Michael
Subject: RE: M3 J3 congestion update (Case Ref: MG15365)

Dear Michael

Thank you for your email about the recently commissioned study at M3 Junction 3/A322 Lightwater.

Referring to our previous conversations on the subject, this is a busy junction that presents us with a number of challenges. Although we've optimised its performance through improvements and adjustments to the traffic signals, we recognise that this represents only a modest overall improvement for road users.

The M3 Junction 3/A322 study takes the form of a strategic network needs assessment (SNNA). The SNNA seeks to establish a clear understanding of those issues and challenges, with a particular focus on safety, congestion and traffic capacity. Having that clear and up to date picture of the performance and operation of the junction will further help us in determining the need for intervention.

We have recently started work on the SNNA, and are pulling together available traffic data and intelligence. We are also drawing on the useful discussions we had with stakeholders, and their input through the route strategy process. This is all important as it gives us a picture of the current operation of the junction, as well as an indication of potential future issues based on longer-term forecasts. We expect to conclude the SNNA by the end of the year.

Building on the SNNA we will then move to the next stage, what we refer to as Stage 0a of our project control framework. It is at this stage that we will identify and assess potential interventions, and their viability, so that we can take them forward for further consideration. We expect to conclude this work early in 2024.

I must stress that, although we have funding for this early-stage development work, any potential future scheme is currently uncommitted and unfunded.

I will keep you updated on progress as we move through the stages outlined above.

Yours sincerely,

Programme Development Manager SE, Team Leader (Operations South East)
National Highways | Bridge House | 1 Walnut Tree Close | Guildford | Surrey | GU1
4LZ