

M49 Link Road: Construction FAQs

About the project

What do you have planning permission to build?

South Gloucestershire Council has planning permission to construct a 160m (525ft) link road that will create direct access from the Severnside industrial and enterprise area to the motorway network via the M49 junction.

The link road will unlock significant benefits for South Gloucestershire's business communities and will help build upon the economic potential of the area. Within the local community, it will relieve congestion, reduce traffic on local roads and improve air pollution.

The plans also include improvements to an adjacent cycle path which is part of the National Cycle Network.

When will construction start?

Construction will start in June 2025 and is expected to take approximately 12 months.

Why has it taken this long for construction to start?

The council did not own the land that the link road will be built on and needed to purchase the land. This included agreements for the temporary use of some land for a works compound and access over privately-owned land to build the road.

In addition to securing land, the council completed a full design of the scheme. Some aspects of the design required independent checks and approvals.

Road Safety Audits were also needed and are required on all major schemes to ensure the scheme is technically correct, safe for public use and to minimise future maintenance costs.

How much will the new link road cost and how is the scheme being funded?

The link road is being funded with a £7m allocation from the Department for Transport (DfT).

South Gloucestershire Council is working with National Highways and the DfT to deliver the project.

What provision are you making for walking and cycling?

Routes for walking and cycling will be maintained throughout the construction period, with diversions in place throughout. Any diversion will be as short and direct as possible, whilst also ensuring the safety of path users and our workers.

The council is committed to developing sustainable transport options, including walking and cycling, and the new infrastructure will connect public rights of ways and the existing cycle network.

About the construction works

What route will the construction vehicles use?

We will ensure that all construction traffic is directed via the most appropriate, available routes. This will include the A403 and the motorway network.

Our contractor is aware of the current weight restriction on the M48.

Who is carrying out the work?

The new link road has been designed and will be built by South Gloucestershire Council Streetcare and appropriate specialist partners.

Throughout construction, StreetCare and their partners will work closely together to minimise disruption and timescales, and to work collaboratively to deliver the project within the stated timeframe.

What is the timetable for construction?

Enabling works for the new link road will start in June 2025. This package of works includes:

- A new shared use path, from the motorway junction to Goldcrest Way
- Ground stabilisation works and installation of a sheet piled wall
- Construction of new drainage systems
- An embankment to connect the existing industrial park to the motorway junction
- Surfacing works, lining and new signage
- A Traffic Regulation Order to control parking and speed
- Landscaping
- Ecology work

What impact will the works have on traffic in the local area?

Some traffic management measures may be required whilst work is ongoing. The type of traffic management will depend on the phase of work being undertaken; it may include the use of traffic lights and stop/go boards.

Part of Goldcrest Way will require a short closure later in the project to finish the top surface on the existing road. Advance consultation will take place prior to finalising this piece of work.

Once the link road has been built, this will result in fewer HGVs and industrial vehicles using smaller roads, making local villages and communities safer, cleaner and more pleasant for residents.

What will the typical working hours be?

Typical working hours will be between 7:30 and 6pm Monday to Friday, and between 8am and 1pm on Saturdays.

All routine deliveries to site will be scheduled during these hours, however it may be necessary to work outside these hours in exceptional circumstances.

Will there be overnight working onsite and, if so, will it be noisy?

Whilst there is no overnight work planned, the completion of the surfacing on the existing Goldcrest Way may require an overnight closure. This is to minimise the impact on local companies and will be subject to advance consultation.

Will there be a temporary compound built?

Yes, a temporary secure compound will be built as part of the early works. This will be built on the land behind the Travelodge car park and will facilities to support staff welfare, parking, materials and equipment.

Upon completion of the project, this land will be transferred back to the landowner.

How will construction traffic enter the site?

The M49 slip road will remain closed for the duration of the project, with construction plant, materials and workers accessing the site through the industrial park.

When will deliveries and collections take place?

Deliveries/collections will be planned to take place between 7.30am and 6pm Monday to Fridays, and 8am and 1pm Saturdays.

There may be occasions when deliveries or collections need to take place outside of these times - for example, to facilitate night working.

Where practical, every effort will be made to avoid peak times and to stagger deliveries across the day. This will reduce the impact of heavy vehicles using roads within the local community.

Are you considering the ongoing impact on ecology?

Yes, the project team has agreed a Construction Ecological Management Plan with the Local Planning Authority which sets out how we will minimise the impact on local wildlife during construction.

There will also be an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW) overseeing construction to ensure that the approved plan is adhered to. The ECOW will be on site at the start of the works to ensure that all ecological requirements have been met.

We have successfully undertaken ecology works on the pond slopes in front of Amazon. This is to protect water voles, with works completed under licence from Natural England.

How will you monitor dust and air quality?

All works will be carried out in accordance with the planning consent and associated conditions.

The main potential impact on air quality arising from the works is dust and we will have measures in place to minimise this, including:

- Vehicle routes will be kept clear of site materials and dampened down in dry weather, if needed
- Powder materials will be stored in containers. Long-term stockpiling of materials will be avoided.
- Site staff will undertake regular inspections. The frequency of inspections will be increased to daily checks when activities with a high potential to produce dust are being carried out, and during prolonged dry or windy conditions. Corrective on-site measures will be implemented if found to be necessary.
- The site compound will be surfaced to minimise the risk of dust.

Will there be piling?

Yes, the scheme involves two types of piling. This will be carried out by specialist contractors.

A sheet piled wall will be installed to take the loading of a new embankment near the Amazon Pond.

In addition, we need to stabilise the ground under the new road and embankment – this is due to poor ground conditions. This will be achieved using Controlled Modulus Columns; a specialist type of piling and is the same technique that National Highways use to stabilise the ground under motorway junctions.

How will you make sure the new road is safe?

South Gloucestershire Council is working with National Highways to introduce a reduction in speed limit on the motorway 'off slip' roads and a 30mph speed around the gyratory. The council also intends to set a 30mph limit on the new link road and roads to the A403.

Parking restrictions are proposed on the link road and approach roads to avoid parked vehicles causing obstructions, creating tailbacks and endangering road users. These will be subject to the statutory process for Traffic Regulation Orders and will be legally enforceable.

In addition, the embankments will have crash barriers, with an entirely separate new route to be provided for pedestrians and cyclists that connects the existing cycling and walking network.

Directional signage in the vicinity is under review and will be updated to ensure that traffic is correctly directed to the link road.

When will the road open?

We anticipate that the road will open in summer 2026, however this is subject to the project not encountering unforeseen issues. Whilst we will open the road as soon as possible, some seasonal activities (such as planting and landscaping) may need to be completed later.

Who will maintain the road in future?

The existing gyratory and the motorway will continue to be maintained by National Highways. The council will adopt the new link road and Goldcrest Way as far as Palmer Avenue, where it meets the existing public highway. The road will then be subject to normal highway law and maintained as part of the council's highway network.

I run a local business; will you pay compensation for any loss of earnings during the work?

The general rule is that there is no automatic or statutory provision for compensation to be payable by the highway authority if a business is affected by roadworks.

However, there is potential relief from business rates available if business premises are affected by severe local disruption. The Government's website contains information regarding claiming for a business rates reduction in the form of hardship relief: [Business rates relief: Hardship relief - GOV.UK](#)

The council's website also contains information on how to apply for hardship relief: <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/hardship-relief/>

Will there be compensation for those residents or businesses adversely affected by the construction work?

There is no legal requirement for the council to provide compensation for disturbance and there is no council policy in place to do so.

More information

How do I get in touch with the project team?

If you have a question, you can email the M49 link road project team at M49linkroad@southglos.gov.uk

Where can I find out more information?

Please visit the project webpage www.southglos.gov.uk/M49-link-road

Will you keep the community updated?

We will provide updates to the community throughout the project. We will also issue updates via the website, the Council's social media accounts and via the Parish Council.