

Busy Staffordshire commuter route is to get a £2 million safety boost

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A £2 million project to boost safety along one of Staffordshire's busiest commuter routes is to get underway this month.

Staffordshire County Council is carrying out the major improvement scheme which aims to reduce accidents on the A38 near Lichfield.

The stretch of road from Weeford to Bassett's Pole has been plagued by collisions with 38 injury accidents recorded during the last three years.

Three of the accidents resulted in fatalities and a further three led to people sustaining serious injuries.

A raft of road safety measures are being put in place along the road including average speed cameras which will encourage motorists to slow down.

The speed limit will also be reduced from 70mph to 60mph following the improvements. Average speeds of 80mph have been recorded along the road.

The carriageway will also be resurfaced, new fencing will be put in place, trees will be cut back to increase visibility and drainage improvements will be made.

The upgrade will start on Sunday, April 25 and is expected to take around 24 weeks to complete.

A temporary 30mph speed limit will be in place while the work is carried out to ensure that members of the highways team are kept safe and motorists are protected from exposed hazards.

The road will be reduced from two lanes to one throughout the majority of the work and there will be some overnight closures while the carriageway resurfacing is carried out.

Motorists will be diverted via Tamworth and the A5 during the closures.

Lichfield District Council will also utilise the traffic management in place to undertake litter picking along the length.

The team will mainly be on site from Monday to Friday but some weekend working may be necessary.

When no work is taking place, during weekends and on Bank Holidays, where safety permits, the traffic management restrictions will be lifted.

Paul Boss, Highways Asset Manager, said: "The A38 is one of the busiest commuter routes in Staffordshire and is used by thousands of motorists every day. It has previously been plagued by accidents which is why it is vital that these potentially life saving measures are put in place.

"Safety is a top priority for the county council and now that we have taken over responsibility of this road from the Highways Agency we are determined to bring it up to the same high standards as other principal roads within our remit.

“I would like to thank people in advance for their patience while this essential road safety and maintenance project is taking place and assure them that the work will be carried out as efficiently and to the highest standards as possible, ensuring the road is fit for purpose for the next 25 years and beyond.”