

Next phase of major A38 safety project to begin

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The next phase of a major safety project on one of Staffordshire's busiest commuter routes begins tonight.

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 is benefitting from a raft of road safety measures including average speed cameras which will encourage motorists to slow down.

Resurfacing will begin tonight (June 28) with work taking place between 7pm and 5am. One side of the road will be closed at a time while work takes place – southbound first beginning at Weeford then northbound. Work is expected to take around 10 weeks.

During the day one lane will be closed where work is taking place, with the other having a temporary speed limit of 30mph to ensure the safety of the highways team. The other carriageway won't be affected. Temporary lights have been installed along the road.

This stretch of the A38 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.

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.

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, where safety permits, the traffic management restrictions will be lifted.

The scheme has been partially funded by the Department of Transport following the management of the road being transferred from the Highways Agency to the county council last year.

Staffordshire County Councillor Mike Maryon, Cabinet member for Highways, said:
"The safety measures being installed on the A38 are vital and potentially life-saving.

"Safety on our roads is a top priority and now the county council is managing the A38 we are ensuring that it is brought up to the same standards as others throughout Staffordshire.

"This essential work is being carried out as quickly and efficiently as possible and I would like to thank people for their patience while it takes place."