

Manchester Smart Roadways – Development Phase

The Department for Transport (DfT) in the UK is introducing significant improvements across key parts of the road network. “Hard Shoulder Running” is an initiative involving using the hard shoulder as an extra lane to improve journey times. Deploying this on the M60 and M62 motorways around Manchester are two priority schemes, with improved capacity on the M60 as the third planned initiative.

As part of a joint venture with Halcrow, Arcadis was appointed as scheme designer to provide an integrated motorway corridor, approximately 27km long, bringing together the three schemes, and adding a controlled motorway section. The overall scheme is known as Manchester Smart Motorways. It will reduce journey times for travelers by using new technologies and traffic regulation methods.

The design brief for Stage 5, the Construction Preparation, was to upgrade the motorway sections by upgrading the hard shoulder lanes to full running lanes to increase capacity and technology enhancements to regulate traffic. Arcadis worked closely with the delivery partner, a joint venture of five major contractors, from the beginning of this stage. At key milestones in the program, we held collaborative workshops with relevant stakeholders and the wider integrated project team.

Our collaborative approach enabled us to mitigate the air quality issues, and manage the impact of the UK Government’s Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects approvals process. We identified that the scheme could be delivered as two separate projects, which has enabled us to deliver on program using the team integrated approach.