



Safer Roads Fund briefing

September 2022

The Safer Roads Fund was established by the Department for Transport in 2016 to improve safety on England's 50 most dangerous A-roads.

Lancashire County Council made a successful bid for £7.9m to deliver improvements on the five 'high risk' routes which had been identified within the county, with the funding being awarded in 2018.

The fund is specifically targeted at delivering road upgrades and improvements with the aim of reducing the number and severity of fatal and serious injury collisions.

The programme of improvements is as follows:

- £1.2m for average speed cameras on the A6 from Lancaster city centre through Scotforth and Galgate to J33 of the M6.
- £1.2m for the A581 Rufford to Euxton – including average speed cameras, measures to highlight the centreline and edge of the road, and extension of the 30mph zone at Ulmes Walton.
- £1.9m for the A588 from Lancaster's Pointer roundabout to Skippool – including average speed cameras over 26km, and measures to highlight the centreline and edge of the road, and cycle safety measures at the Pointer Roundabout.
- £449,000 for the A682 from Barrowford to Long Preston – including average speed cameras over 8km, solar-powered road studs to highlight the centreline, and rumble strips to highlight the edge of the road over 13km.
- £3.1m for the A683 from the M6 J34 at Lancaster to Kirkby Lonsdale – including average speed cameras over the whole length, 3.5km of roadside safety barriers, widening the footway over Hornby Bridge, high reflectivity road markings and cats eyes to aid drivers.

Work to date

A range of work has already taken place to improve safety on the five routes, with the aspects of the programme which involve upgrades such as installing LED cats eyes, high-reflectivity road markings and safety barriers now having been delivered.

Schedule for installation

The next phase of the programme due to take place from September 2022 to July 2023 involves installing average speed cameras along sections of the five routes.



The approximate schedule for this work is as follows. It is to be carried out by Jenoptik, the company which manufactures the cameras, who will be working closely with the county council's highways team to deliver the programme.

A581 Rufford to Euxton	September 2022 to December 2022
A588 Lancaster to Skippool	November 2022 to April 2023
A683 Lancaster M6 J34 to Kirkby Lonsdale	January 2023 to May 2023
A6 Lancaster city centre to M6 J33	February 2023 to June 2023
A682 Gisburn to North Yorks boundary	March 2023 to June 2023

A period of testing will be needed after the cameras are installed before they can be made operational and begin being used by the police to enforce speed limits.

Average Speed Cameras

Average speed cameras work by reading the number plate of passing vehicles and calculating a driver's average speed over a known length of road within the same speed limit. This results in drivers maintaining a steady average speed rather than just slowing down when they see a traditional fixed or spot speed camera, delivering safer and smoother traffic flows.

There are currently 8 routes already covered by Jenoptik's SPECS average speed camera enforcement systems in Lancashire, which were installed in 2017 and 2018. Initial evaluation shows there has been a reduction in collisions of up to 86% on these routes.

Traffic management

We expect the installation of the cameras to be carried out with fairly minimal disruption to traffic and nearby residents and businesses. Some traffic management will be needed for the safety of those working near the roadside while the cameras are being installed, and as work follows to connect them to the electricity supply, however this will be carefully managed to minimise the impact on traffic.

Speed limits

The speed limit is due to be reduced along some sections of the five routes, following public consultation earlier this year, and the proposals being agreed by Lancashire County Council's cabinet in September 2022.

