

Why are the improvements required and how might they affect you?

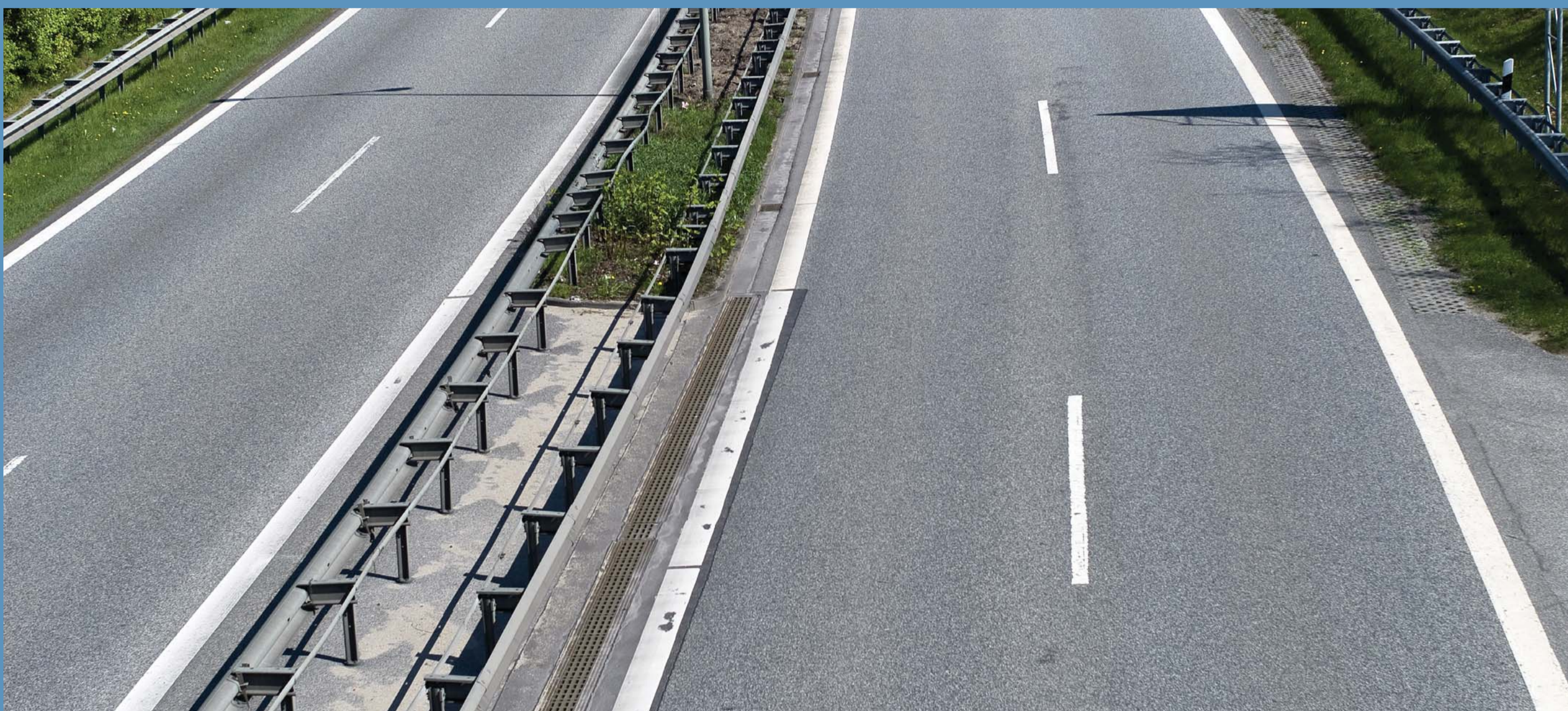
What are the existing problems?

The A1 carries between 22,000 and 32,000 vehicles daily within the study area.

Frequent gaps in the central median located at side roads, private accesses and field gates result in a significant number of right turn and u-turn manoeuvres being performed on a daily basis along this busy stretch of road.

Right turn manoeuvres are a factor in a substantial proportion of collisions along the route and collisions involving right turning manoeuvres are more likely to result in serious or fatal injuries.

The absence of safety barrier in the central median for most of the A1 within the study area means that the potential for cross-over type accidents is greater.



Why close the gaps in the central median?

Closing the gaps in the central median will remove right turn manoeuvres onto and off the A1 dual carriageway and will significantly improve safety.

Why is the central barrier required?

The barrier in the central median will further enhance safety by reducing the incidence of errant vehicles crossing the median and colliding with oncoming traffic.

Why are the "Flyover-type" Junctions needed?

Flyover-type junctions (i.e. flyover, eg. Dromore Road, Hillsborough, or underpass, eg. Banbridge Road, Dromore) are provided to facilitate both traffic crossing the A1 as well as traffic diverted as a result of median or side road closures. These junctions are located at regular intervals to facilitate turning movements and to limit the maximum increase in journey lengths to approximately 5km (3 miles).

Why close selected minor junctions?

Design standards recommend that minor road junctions on a dual carriageway should be located at least 1km away from 'flyover-type' junctions. Many minor junctions within the study area are located well within 1km and Roads Service is considering closing selected junctions with the dual carriageway, taking account of the suitability of the adjacent road network. This aims to further improve safety by reducing conflict between merging and diverging vehicles.

By reducing the number of accesses onto the A1, speeds along the route will become more consistent and there will be a reduction in traffic disruption due to manoeuvres and incidents at intermediate junctions.



How might the improvements affect you?

Motorists on the A1 will benefit from:

- Improved safety
- Reduction in collisions due to elimination of right turn, u-turn and crossing manoeuvres
- A higher standard of dual carriageway with an improved standard of access to and from the A1
- Improved and more reliable travel times along the A1
- Reduced driver stress

Local road users are likely to have to travel a greater distance as a result of:

- the median closure
- the closure of minor road junctions.

The maximum increase in journey lengths resulting from any closure will be approximately 5km, however many will be significantly less.

