



Scheduled to open autumn 2017

The Mersey Gateway Project

On track to open in autumn 2017, the Mersey Gateway Project is a major civil engineering scheme to build a new six-lane cable-stayed toll bridge over the River Mersey and a 9.2 kilometre road network connecting the new bridge to the main motorway network in the north west of England.

At a local level, the project will provide a much needed new link between the towns of Runcorn and Widnes and will relieve the congested and ageing Silver Jubilee Bridge.

You can now see detailed information about tolling at www.merseyflow.co.uk. There are special discount deals on tolls for eligible Halton residents and regular users along with information about how blue badge holders can register for free crossings.

Registration will open in the summer of 2017 but you can look online now to work out the best deal for you and see what you need to do to register.



The new bridge

The design of the new Mersey Gateway Bridge is a cable-stayed structure with three pylons.

It will be 2.3km long with a river span of 1km.

The main bridge deck is made from reinforced concrete and the spans are supported by steel cable stays attached to pylons rising up to between 80 and 125m above the river bed.

Once open, the new bridge will carry up to six lanes of traffic and will have a speed limit of 60mph.

Construction in the river 2017



Drop in to one of our free visitor centres

Two free Mersey Gateway visitor centres – at the Catalyst Museum in Widnes and at Runcorn Shopping Centre – and a special Environmental Trail at Wigg Island, have been set up to tell the story of Halton’s iconic new bridge.

They are staffed by Mersey Gateway volunteers who are on hand to answer questions on everything from local history and heritage, environment and ecology, to the bridge construction.

In Widnes, our volunteers also host trips to the Catalyst centre’s rooftop observatory, where visitors can get a bird’s eye view of the construction work that is taking place in the estuary.



Our visitor centre at The Catalyst Museum

Benefits

The project will bring huge estimated benefits for people and businesses in Halton, the Liverpool city-region, Cheshire and across the north west.

Up to 1,000 people are working on site on the project at any one time, and during the first year of construction Merseylink issued contracts worth a total of £129 million to north west businesses. Looking at the wider picture, we are also seeing the early impact of the project with new investment coming to Halton on both sides of the river.

Studies show that the economic benefits Mersey Gateway will bring to Halton and the surrounding area are almost four times greater than its cost.

The projected long-term economic benefits include:

- 470 permanent full time equivalent jobs on site during the construction phase,
- 4,640 permanent new jobs as a result of the operation of the Mersey Gateway, regeneration activity and inward investment, and
- £61.9 million a year in Gross Value Added from the new jobs by 2030.



The project will also mean major transport improvements, such as:

- reductions in some journey times of up to 10 minutes in peak periods,
- increase in journey time reliability and less congestion,
- 80% less traffic using the Silver Jubilee Bridge, freeing it up for use as a local bridge, and
- a major strategic new transport route linking the Liverpool city-region and the north west to the rest of the country.

It will also deliver social benefits to communities in and around Halton including:

- improvements to public transport facilities,
- improvements to walking and cycling facilities, and
- improved health as a result of reduced air pollution.

The Merseylink Consortium was appointed by Halton Borough Council as the project company in 2014 on a 30-year contract to design, build, finance and operate the project. Its equity partners are Macquarie Capital Group Limited, BBGI, and FCC Construcción.

The construction joint venture is made up of Kier Infrastructure and Overseas Limited, Samsung C&T Corporation and FCC Construcción S.A.

Emovis will deliver and operate the tolling solution for the consortium through its merseyflow brand.

Tolling

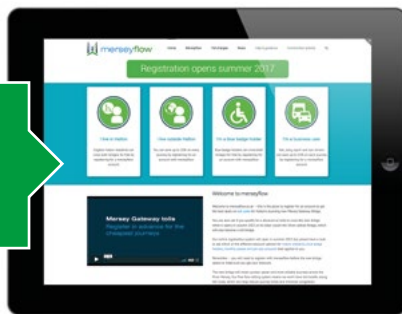
You can now find all the latest information relating to tolling – including prices and discount options – at the new tolling website – www.merseyflow.co.uk

Registration will open in the summer of 2017, and when it does you will need to register with merseyflow to make sure you get the best discount deal for you.

Both the new bridge and the Silver Jubilee Bridge will be tolled when the new bridge opens in 2017. It will cost the same to cross either bridge.

Eligible Halton residents can pay a £10 annual admin fee and then make as many personal trips as they like across the river at no extra cost.

Find all the latest information relating to tolling at www.merseyflow.co.uk



Costs and funding

Halton Borough Council has set up a new body, the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board Ltd, to deliver the project.

It is working closely with the Merseylink consortium, which was appointed as the project company by the council and is responsible for the design, build, finance and operation of the bridge over the next 30 years.

Halton Borough Council and Merseylink have worked together to reduce the project budget by £250 million.

The £1.86 billion lifetime cost includes the design, build, finance, operation and maintenance of the project through to 2044. The majority of the funding comes from the tolls paid by road users, but there is also a contribution from the UK Government.



Refurbishing Runcorn's Central Expressway

Timetable

We're on track to open the new bridge and the surrounding road network in autumn 2017. It has been a hugely exciting journey to get here.

Spring 2014

Construction work started



Construction underway on the supporting pylons

Autumn 2015

Construction of main bridge began

Autumn 2016

Roads start re-opening across Runcorn and Widnes
First of 146 cable stays installed on the new bridge



The cable stays from the top of the south pylon

Autumn 2017

Mersey Gateway Bridge scheduled to open



The new bridge as it crosses St Helens Canal in Widnes

Autumn 2017

Silver Jubilee Bridge closed for refurbishment

Autumn 2018

Silver Jubilee Bridge scheduled to re-open

The Silver Jubilee Bridge

Built in 1961, and now crossed by over 26 million users every year, the Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB) is the only route for cars to cross the Mersey through Halton and is a notorious traffic bottleneck.



Incidents and routine maintenance result in extensive delay where the local and regional road networks become 'gridlocked' for several hours.

To deliver the traffic and environmental benefits when the new bridge opens, the SJB will be tolled – but it will be free for eligible Halton residents, local buses, cyclists and pedestrians.

Around 80% of traffic will use the new bridge and the SJB will be reconfigured as a local bridge – with one lane of traffic in each direction, alongside dedicated space for cyclists and pedestrians.

When the new bridge opens it is planned to close Silver Jubilee Bridge for up to 12 months to undertake essential maintenance work that is being postponed to avoid traffic disruption. The SJB will remain open to cyclists and pedestrians throughout this closure.

Environment

Mersey Gateway is a 'green' project that is starting to bring major environmental benefits to the local area.

A unique new charity – the Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust – has been created to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment across a 1600 hectare area of the Upper Mersey Estuary running from the new bridge up river to Warrington.

The Trust, which will also manage a new 28.5 hectare nature reserve alongside the bridge, is unique for a major construction project in the UK.



Keep in touch

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Department for
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