AVOIDING ‘TRAFFIC SWITCHES’ & ‘GHOST LINES’

It’s commonplace on motorway projects for dozens of traffic switches to occur during a project’s construction. A traffic switch is when permanent lane markings need to be temporarily covered or repainted, or the alignment of a lane or an on-ramp needs to be moved to ‘snake around’ a construction site for a short period before it’s moved back. Sometimes repainting lane markings results in ‘ghosting’, where sunstrike at different angles can show both old and new lines.

All of these issues can confuse drivers, cause heavy braking, slow traffic or lead to accidents. Instead of following standard practice, the NCI team has come up with a plan with only three major traffic switches on SH1, in the whole 3-4 year construction period. That means your journey on the motorway will look the same for up to a year at a time. And when traffic does have to move it will only ever be moved in “whole lane widths” – meaning ghosting of repainted lines won’t have to occur.

NIGHT TIME WORKS ARE A NECESSITY

The key to making this new approach possible has been due to the early night-time preparation work, avoiding peak traffic times. Four months of sustained night time works on SH1 are removing all of the overhead gantries and message boards and taking out the concrete barriers down the full length of the project. The entire motorway surface is being overlaid with new asphalt, and new lane markings painted in preparation for the project works.

SAFER FOR EVERYONE

The aim of this approach is for all our customers to be safer and experience less frustration. But it’s also safer for our own construction crews. Nearly all their work will be done offline, behind barriers and accessed from the sides - away from live motorway traffic. Caring for our own people is also our top priority.