

# **THAMES VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GROUP**

## **Infrastructure, Connectivity & Transport Forum 23 November 2010**

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# **MOTORWAY HOLD UPS BACKGROUND**

- **1,870 miles of English motorway**
- **Motorways represent 1% of all GB roads**
- **But carry 20% of all GB traffic**
- **Motorway traffic down 1% (Q3 2009 v Q3 2010)**
- **Journey time reliability on worst 10% of routes improved 19 seconds per 10 miles (March 2008 – September 2010)!**
- **Cost of delays estimated at £4bn**

# MOTORWAY HOLD UPS BACKGROUND

## Reasons for hold ups:

- **Accidents (including investigation)**
- **Road works**
- **Incidents**
- **Congestion**

# MOTORWAY HOLD UPS

## AA POPULUS POLLS

### Policing (motorways and main roads)

- **51% thought high priority should be given to reducing duration of incidents**
- **54% thought road accident investigation should be a high priority**
- **79% tackling crime and organised crime**

# MOTORWAY HOLD UPS

M4 LONDON – BRISTOL  
(2008/2009 v 2009/2010 to date\*)

- **November +54%** (National: +14%)
- **October: +31%** (National: +11%)
- **September: +80%** (National: +30%)
- **August: +33%** (National: +10%)
- **July: +19%** (National: +12%)
- **June: +32%** (National: +22%)
- **May: +2%** (National: +8%)
- **April: +3%** (National: +3%)
- **March: +23%** (National: +28%)
- **February: +18%** (National: +37%)
- **January: +6%** (National: +13%)
- **December 2009 (excludes Christmas/New Year): +12%** (National: +25%)

\* Source AA Roadwatch / Trafficmaster

# MOTORWAY HOLD UPS

## M4 LONDON – BRISTOL (2008/2009 v 2009/2010 to date)

- Impact of severe winter weather
- Man on M4 incident (Leigh Delamare)
- Milk tanker (Reading)
- Increased road work activity in the spring
- M4 worsening more than national trend
- Reading to M25 natural bottle neck – commuter traffic, long distance traffic and Heathrow
- Impact of T5 on M25/M4 interchange

# MOTORWAY HOLD UPS

**DFT Journey Time Reliability :**

**(slowest 10% of routes)**

**M4 London Bound J13 – J1 (49miles)**

**Av speed Sept 2009-2010 39mph**

**Delay minutes per 10 miles**

**Delay equates to one person being delayed by 98 years!**

# MOTORWAY HOLD UPS

## Solutions:

- **Technology (MIDAS, Info, Journey Planning VMS, TMC)**
- **Better safety / engineering / capacity**
- **Incident management (recovery)**
- **Roadwork management**
- **Traffic Officers**
- **Lateral thinking (breaks in barriers – reverse the flow)**
- **Public welfare**

# Conclusion

- **Cost of delays remain major issue**
- **Getting balance of costs / benefits**
- **Invest to save**
- **Learn to improve**
- **Expect the unexpected**
- **Set some targets**