

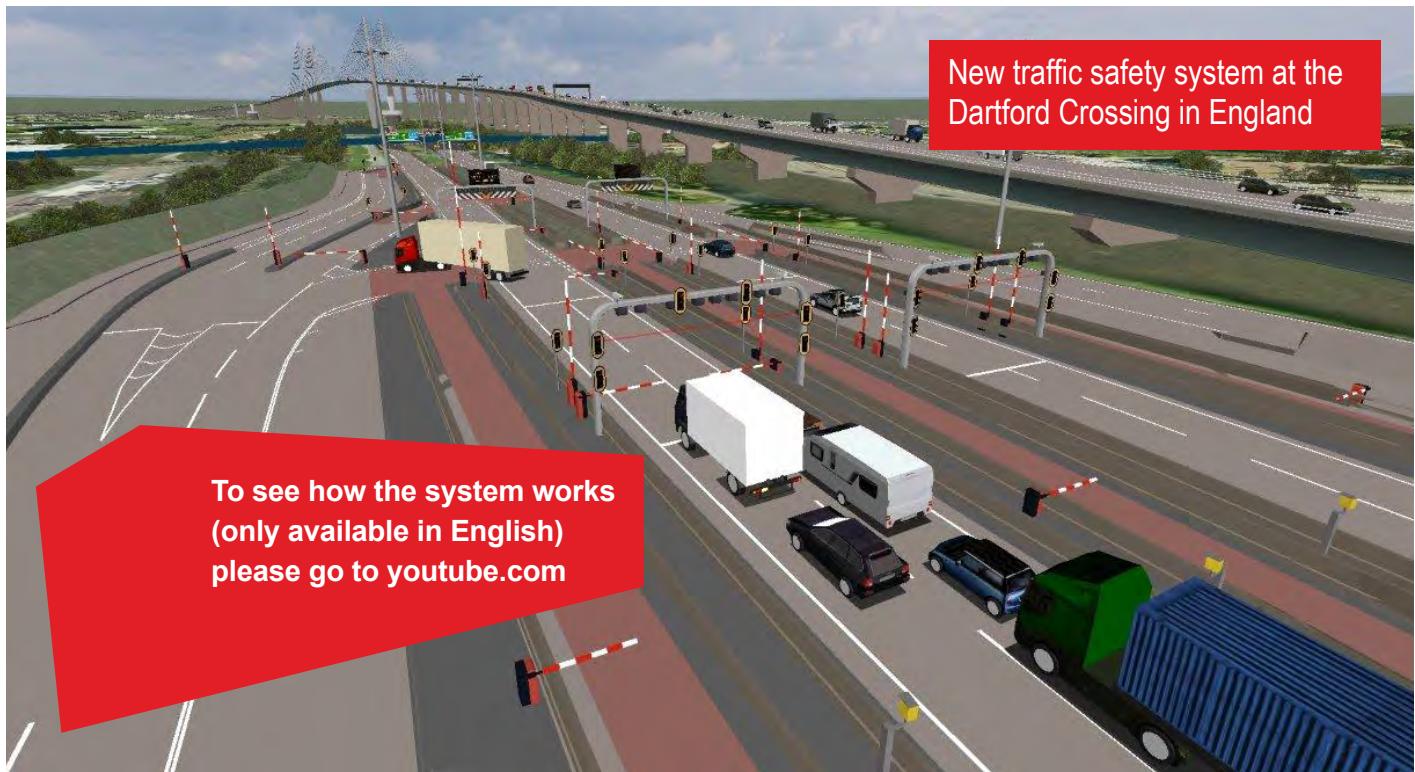
Dart Charge News

The new traffic safety system at Dartford Crossing – advice for drivers of goods vehicles and fleet operators

A new traffic safety system will come into operation in mid-June at the Dartford Crossing in England. This follows the introduction of Dart Charge, the new way to pay the crossing charge, which is paid in advance, or by midnight the day after your crossing. Drivers of large vehicles or those carrying dangerous loads who do not comply with the new safety measures will be stopped and their journey delayed.

The A282 Dartford Crossing links the M25 motorway between Dartford in Kent and Thurrock in Essex. It crosses the River Thames, east of London.

A new traffic safety system will be introduced on the northbound carriageway on the approach to the tunnels, to prevent oversized vehicles that are a risk to safety using the tunnels. It will also identify dangerous vehicles that require an escort, and stop vehicles entering the tunnels in the event of an incident.



Ways to pay  **Dart Charge**

Up to now, these vehicles were stopped at the payment booths, but now that the payment system has changed, the booths are being removed. The traffic safety system will perform this important job and ensure that the Dartford Crossing remains safe for drivers.

How does the new traffic safety system work?



There are clear signs at the Crossing explaining the restrictions and advising drivers of oversized vehicles or those carrying dangerous loads what route or lane to take.

If they do not comply the new traffic safety system will identify these vehicles and trigger a series of traffic signals and barriers that will stop the vehicle safely and extract them as quickly as possible.

Tunnel restrictions

If you drive an oversized vehicle when travelling northbound towards the tunnels, you must get in the correct lane after Junction 2 and before Junction 1a. You will not be able to change lanes after Junction 1a.

Height restrictions:

- 4.8m for lanes 1 and 2 (left hand lanes)
- 5.0m for lanes 3 and 4 (right hand lanes)

If you are in the wrong lane you will be stopped and escorted off the road. You could also receive a fine and points on your driving licence.

If your vehicle height is less than 5m, you will be instructed to go back to Junction 1b to re-approach in the correct lane. Vehicles above 4.8m can no longer join the approach road to the tunnels at Junction 1a.

If you drive a vehicle that is higher than 5m you must not attempt to use the tunnels and should use a different route. If you drive a vehicle wider than 2.75m, or longer than 18.75m, you must exit at Junction 1a and follow the 'hollow diamond' symbol to the vehicle marshalling area to be checked before using the tunnels.

Vehicles carrying hazardous goods or abnormal loads must still report to the marshalling area to be checked before using the tunnels. Please exit at Junction 1a and follow the 'hollow diamond' symbol to the vehicle marshalling area. Failure to do so, will result in your vehicle being stopped and you could receive a fine.

For more information (only available in English) please go to
www.gov.uk/highways/dartford/layout-changes.pdf

NOTES TO EDITORS

Highways England is the wholly government-owned company responsible for modernising, maintaining and operating England's motorways and major A roads.

Issued by Highways England.

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