

# SDF – Already delivering for customers and the public in the North



## When the **Scheme Delivery Framework (SDF)** launched the ambition was for a new approach to highways maintenance.

One that would streamline the renewal of motorways and major A roads to make them more resilient so that road users would benefit from smooth, reliable journeys for years to come.

There are also essential social value objectives. These include helping local communities recover from the impact of Covid-19, creating new businesses, nurturing new jobs and skills and tackling workforce inequality.

Looking at Northern Area schemes Octavius has delivered under the framework reveals how these objectives are being delivered in practice.

The first scheme we delivered under the SDF was a new emergency rescue area on the M1 north of Woodhall Services. Thanks to collaborative planning and Lean management the scheme was delivered one week ahead of schedule with zero incidents, getting our involvement with SDF off to a great start as well as enhancing road user safety.



## Improved drainage and safety

The drainage and resurfacing scheme on the A64 in Knapton involved night-time traffic light controlled closures to re-sett 107 drainage frames and lids along a 2.4 Km stretch of road. The road was then resurfaced and relined. Additionally, studding and an anti-skid surface were added to a dangerous bend to make the road safer.

While these works will undoubtedly improve reliability and safety, the experience of local residents and businesses was also an important consideration for project delivery.

The road was totally closed for the surfacing operations over two weekends. During these periods Octavius staff used escort vehicles supplied by the traffic management partner (HW Martins) to control access for the residents and visitors to local businesses.

Feedback from the residents about how they'd been treated was very positive – even though they had to wait for a safe crossing time. This owed a lot to the friendly and professional approach of all involved.

The scheme was delivered exactly to programme and works were completed nine hours earlier than the traffic management booking.

***“Great news after 2 successful weekends of work. I really appreciate the prompt action on the H&S close out too – it’s great to see and shows Octavius pro-actively managing the project from start to finish. Thanks”***

**Chris Dunn**  
Project Manager

## **Asset resilience**

Another project delivered under SDF was the deck refurbishment and parapet replacement on the M6 Brunthwaite Bridge.

Despite several lengthy delays resulting from external factors, the project was delivered on time and within budget. It has been described by the customer as

***“one of the best schemes delivered in Area 13.”***

The works consisted of deck scraping, concrete repairs, new waterproofing, new footpaths, new surfacing and new EMR Joints. The parapet replacement phase of the scheme is due to start early in 2023.

The result of the eight week programme is a highly resilient highways asset that will save road users from delays and closures for many years to come.

## Working collaboratively

Works have also been safely and successfully completed on the widening of an existing emergency refuge area on the northbound carriageway of the M1, around junction 33. The works were undertaken utilising overnight lane closures over an 11 week period.

Octavius carried out the role of Principal Contractor, managing other Lot Contractors and also delivering the general civils works in the form of earthworks, kerbing and concrete pavement infill works.

Despite changes to the original design, by working closely and collaboratively with the other Lot Contractors, the scheme was delivered successfully to the satisfaction of our client, National Highways.

*“...thanks for the hard work put in by yourselves to deliver this second Stocktake Action scheme (the M1 ERA widening), a key scheme delivery target for National Highways. This scheme has thrown up a number of challenges but by working collaboratively with the other Lot Providers these have been overcome. Key points of learning will be[sic] benefit other SDF projects.”*

Sujad Hussain – Project Manager

## Social value

The SDF rightly raises the profile and importance of delivering social value. Measured using the Thrive tool, up to the end of December 2022 Octavius delivered over £1.717m in social value. This included:

- Five contracts awarded to local businesses
- £270k of local spend
- £1m of regional and national spend
- £222k spent with SMEs

Additionally there were 440 people hours of training interventions delivered and 94 people hours of direct community support from Octavius staff.

Sustainability is another essential objective for Octavius Infrastructure and the SDF. By deploying Eco cabins worksite and other measures we achieved a reduction of eight Metric Tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (MTCDE) across these schemes. Our teams also committed 240 people hours to improving the environment and biodiversity.





## In the pipeline

Octavius will shortly be starting a major **resurfacing and renewal programme on the A1 Wentbridge Viaduct**, which is among the largest viaducts in Europe.

Works will include waterproofing under the road surface layer, resurfacing, road marking and stud replacement. Lessons from our major renewal programme to the Gade Valley Viaduct will help ensure successful delivery while minimising disruption.

Our teams are also starting work on the A66 Boundary fence scheme that will replace 6 linear km of post and rail fencing.

It's early days for the SDF and many of our projects in the North of the UK, but the benefits of the collaborative approach to delivery for National Highways, road users and the general public are already clear.



To learn more about our approach to project delivery across the whole of the UK, visit our **Transport Infrastructure Resource Centre** or contact us by email at **[hello@octaviusinfrastructure.co.uk](mailto:hello@octaviusinfrastructure.co.uk)**