

# M6 Toll: Giving motorists the choice

**Tom Fanning**, Chief Executive of the M6 Toll, talks about the benefit of the toll road, and plans to extend in the future

Since opening in December 2003, the M6 Toll road, Britain's first privately funded motorway, has made an important contribution to keeping the nation moving.

It is operated and maintained by Midland Expressway Ltd, and headed-up by chief executive, Tom Fanning.

This world-class, £900 million development offers drivers an alternative to the notoriously busy stretch of the M6, as well as the surrounding congested A-roads.

Some 50,000 vehicles use the road on an average working day, with drivers and businesses clearly recognising the benefits of the free flowing, smooth and reliable alternative to one of Europe's most congested motorways.

With 27 miles of jam free motorway, drivers can leave their cares behind as soon as they get in the car.

Consequently, a number of large haulage, courier and vehicle recovery companies regularly reap the benefits of the M6 Toll road. They are provided with the reassurance, whether they have to be on time for a meeting or meet tight deadlines, that they can depend on the reliability of the road.

The M6 Toll is easily accessed northbound at J3a of the M6 or directly from the M42 just prior to J9. Going South, drivers can join the M6 Toll at J11a of the M6.

There are also eight local junctions along the M6 Toll, labeled T1, T2, T3, etc, through to T8, which offer drivers the option to enter and exit the road at various points along the 27 mile route.

## Business benefits

The M6 Toll has had a major positive impact on the region, and has opened up economic opportunities attracting investors and creating jobs.

The road has acted as a magnet for companies and investment. Time and time again, the M6 Toll is quoted by developers and companies as the deciding factor in their decision to invest in the region.

It is clear that the motorway plays a major part in attracting substantial investment which is helping regenerate communities and creating jobs.

## Great news for motorists – the M54 Link

Motorists in the UK are soon set to benefit from a further £112 million worth of road improvements in the West Midlands which will be funded by the Macquarie Infrastructure Group (MIG) – the owner of the M6 Toll.

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In May 2006, MIG announced improvements including the construction, operation and maintenance of a new road from the M54 and Telford to the M6 and M6 Toll, which won't be tolled.

There will also be improvements to the slip road access from the M42 to the



southern end of the M6 Toll. The recently appointed Transport Secretary, Douglas Alexander, stated:

“I am pleased to record that MIG has agreed to fund £112 million worth of road improvements in the West Midlands from their total refinancing resources.

“This is a good deal for taxpayers and a good deal for motorists. By using resources released from the M6 Toll's refinancing, the Highways Agency will be able to speed up the construction of the new link from the M54 to the M6 and M6 Toll.

“The Government is committed to improving the road network and to tackling congestion. These new improvements will bring real benefits to traffic in the West Midlands.”

## Annual Drive for Charity Day

On 26 July 2006, the M6 Toll will hold its Annual Drive for Charity Day.

It is a well established and popular initiative in Australia whereby an entire day's net toll revenue is donated to



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charity, with the M6 Toll's inaugural event last year raising over £140,000.

The charities chosen to benefit from this event over a three-year period cover the counties through which the M6 Toll has been built:

- Marie Curie Cancer Care;
- The NSPCC;
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust; and
- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

As part of the charity day, the M6 Toll holds a family fun event at their Motorway Service Area - RoadChef Norton Canes. Apart from being a day of family entertainment, the event aims to educate, this year's theme being safety.

### Using the M6 Toll: paying the toll charge

The toll is paid at either one of the local junction Toll Plazas, or one of the mainline plazas, which stretch across the whole carriageway at Great Wyrley (northbound) and Weeford Park (southbound).

Drivers can pay in cash at an attended booth, or at an automatic booth with the correct change.

The M6 Toll encourages payment by debit or credit card – it's fast and simple, no pin is required, no surcharge is applied and there are dedicated card payment lanes.

The illuminated symbols above each toll lane indicate the different payment methods available.

### M6 Toll Tag

The Tag is the M6 Toll's electronic payment system, which enables drivers to

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cruise through dedicated Tag Lanes without having to stop.

Customers can lease a Tag for 50 pence per month, and in return receive five per cent off every journey made.

When signing up to a Tag, drivers provide their credit or debit card details so a pre-agreed amount can be automatically debited as the Tag credit runs low.

The Tag enables more regular customers (ie, three journeys per month for a Class two vehicle) to save time and money, and makes life easier for people claiming the toll charge back through expenses.

Statements are available online, enabling Tag customers to print them off at the end of the month rather than collecting up receipts.

### Vehicle classification

The toll charge depends on the classification of the vehicle - a system which is unique to the M6 Toll.

It depends on the number of axles and the height at the first axle. A vehicle with two axles and a height at the first axle of under 1.3 metres, will be a Class two.

For a detailed description of the classification system, please refer to the 'Pricing' section of the M6 Toll website: [www.m6toll.co.uk](http://www.m6toll.co.uk).

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### Plan ahead to avoid the M6 roadworks

Between June and December 2006 - resurfacing work is taking place on the M6 at two sections of the motorway near Birmingham and Walsall - at J6 and J9. Drivers have the option to use the M6 Toll in order to directly avoid these problem areas.

For further information about the M6 Toll, please visit the official website at: [www.m6toll.co.uk](http://www.m6toll.co.uk)

Here you can find information about the route, the latest news, pricing and how to apply for a Tag.