

We're making improvements to the Dartford Crossing

During **November** 2014 we're changing the way you pay the Dartford Crossing charge, to reduce congestion and ease traffic flow.



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Dart Charge - the new payment arrangements at the Dartford Crossing will be introduced during November 2014.

Background context

The Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing is a vital transport link.

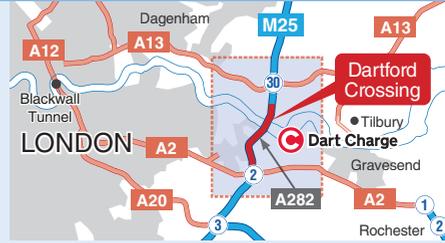
A road user charge has been collected at the Crossing since 2003 to manage the high demand for its use. Revenues from the Crossing must, by law, be spent on transport improvements.

The Government is committed to improving the Crossing experience for the millions of people who use it every year and Dart Charge is part of a package of measures to improve capacity at this location and the M25.

The current road user charge will increase when Dart Charge is introduced. This is the second part of a two-stage increase announced by the Government in May 2012.

What's happening?

From November 2014 instead of stopping at the barriers to pay the Crossing charge, you will pay in advance or by midnight the following day.



How will I pay?

There will be several ways to pay, including online, by phone, by post or at one of many payzone retail outlets.

Alternatively, you can set up a Dart Charge pre-pay account.

It will be cheaper and easier and you can save up to one-third on every Crossing. Register your interest online at gov.uk/highways/dartford and we will contact you with further information.

Will it affect my journey?

The new payment arrangement makes greater use of technology and will require changes to the road layout at the Crossing.

Advance construction work is well underway to prepare for the introduction of Dart Charge – so you might see some work on the roadside but it should have little or no impact to your journey.

Once the new payment arrangements are in place we will start the main roadworks at the Crossing to remove the booths and introduce a new road layout.

All work at the Crossing is being planned to minimise disruption while ensuring that the Crossing remains safe for road users. It is due to be completed by spring 2015.

What do I need to do now?

No one needs to do anything yet in relation to the changes being introduced in November 2014. Existing Dart-Tag holders will be contacted before the changes take place about moving their accounts.

Everyone can subscribe at gov.uk/highways/dartford to receive updates on the introduction of Dart Charge and opening an account.



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