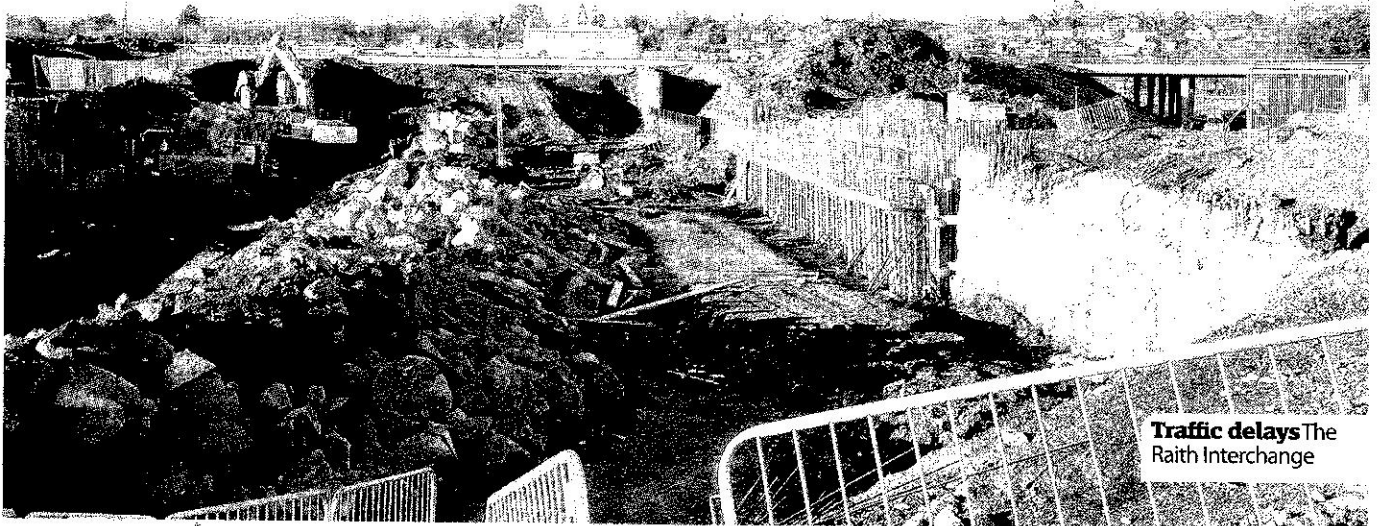


PLAN AHEAD



Traffic delays
The Raith Interchange

SPRING BREAK TRAVEL DELAYS

Raith roadworks set to begin this weekend

Shirley Bartynek

Motorists are to expect delays when travelling on the M74 north and southbound between Raith, Junction 5 and Maryville, Junction 4 this spring break.

Roadworks will begin this Saturday, April 2, for around eight days as part of the £500million M8, M73, M74 Motorway Improvements Project.

A stretch of the M74 between Bothwell and Uddingston will be reduced from three lanes to two lanes in each direction.

The closure of lane three is to allow crossover points to be constructed between the north

and south carriageways. Once constructed, the crossover points will enable M74 traffic to travel in contraflow while overhead gantries are removed.

The removal of the gantries will enable the carriageway to be widened by an extra lane in both directions.

This traffic management is required to ensure the safety of road users and the workforce whilst these works are being carried out.

Access to the M73 and M74 Junction 4 Maryville and M74 J5 Raith will be maintained, although delays are expected.

Graeme Reid, project manager for the M8, M73, M74 Motorway Improvements Project, said: "These works are taking place concurrently

with several other major traffic management schemes, including the M73 between Maryville and Baillieston and Raith, Junction 5.

"We are advising motorists to refer to the Transport Scotland and Traffic Scotland websites for live traffic updates and to plan their journeys in advance."

When complete, the M8, M73, M74 Motorway Improvements Project will significantly reduce congestion across the central Scotland motorway network, including at M74 J5 Raith, shaving approximately 15 minutes off the daily commute.

Just last week the Advertiser reported on further roadworks taking place around the M74 Raith junction which began last Thursday

(March 23). Motorists are also being advised that access to Bothwell and Hamilton via the B7071 Bellshill Road (from Whistleberry Toll to Bothwell Bridge roundabout) will be restricted from March 24 for approximately four weeks.

Traffic travelling towards Bothwell and Hamilton from the M74 Junction 5, Raith, and the A725 Bellshill-Bypass will be diverted via A725 southbound (East Kilbride Expressway) and returned via the B7012 High Blantyre junction.

This traffic management is required to construct the new approach roads to Raith Junction including the removal of Whistleberry Toll roundabout which will be replaced by a new 'T' junction with traffic signals.