VolkerLaser

Birmingham Tunnels

VolkerLaser was appointed to bring strategically significant tunnels in central Birmingham in line with European safety standards.

Tunnels play a vital role in supporting the city's road networks, accommodating thousands of vehicles daily- and the Birmingham tunnels are no exception. These critical routes are known for causing severe congestion and city centre gridlock when obstructed by accidents or vehicle breakdowns. As a result, any maintenance or upgrade works within the tunnels are highly time-sensitive, requiring efficient delivery and careful planning to minimise disruption to traffic flow.

Ahead of the main works, a full asbestos survey was carried out on the Lancaster tunnel to ensure safety and compliance. Once identified, our team completed the necessary asbestos removal in a controlled and secure manner, allowing the wider programme of structural works to begin.

To strengthen the tunnel entrances, hydro-demolition was used to carefully break out deteriorated concrete. This precise technique allowed for the safe removal of material without damaging surrounding structures.

New reinforced foundations were then installed to provide long-term stability and durability at the tunnel portals, helping to futureproof this essential infrastructure.

As part of the wider improvement works, the team installed new safety barriers designed to enhance protection for both road users and maintenance crews. These were complemented by the installation of modern emergency points, improving response access in the event of incidents or breakdowns. Additionally, existing support columns were carefully encased to increase their durability and resistance to wear, helping to extend the structural lifespan of the tunnels.

The team also undertook necessary modifications to the Queensway and St. Chads tunnels, to ensure structural stability for years to come. New finishes were applied, and signifiant upgrades were made to the lighting throughout the tunnels.