**PRESS KIT**

**Roadworks: What You Need To Know**

**Last week’s events**

* Traffic in the Principality is delicately balanced. With large numbers of vehicles using the roads into and out of Monaco, any incident can rapidly have a knock-on effect on traffic. For example, if a tailback forms in the Rainier III tunnel out of the Principality, it is closed immediately.
* A number of incidents occurred simultaneously last week, heavily affecting traffic conditions:
* Collapse of the wall supporting the “Moyenne Corniche” road;
* Installations for the F1 Grand Prix;
* A vehicle on fire in the A500 tunnel;
* A stationary truck on the “liaison Marquet” link road between Monaco and Cap d’Ail;
* French school holidays and two-day public holiday in Italy (influx of tourists);
* The weather.
* As a result of the collapse of the wall supporting the “Moyenne Corniche”, this key road between Nice and Menton will be closed until 10 May at the earliest, after which there will be alternating one-way traffic for several months (following a decision by the French authorities, which will be managing the works).
* Vehicles (cars and trucks) which would not normally have passed through the Principality were forced to do so, generating a 10% increase in traffic.
* In addition to these incidents, the police decided to close the Albert II Tunnel on Saturday morning (in response to potential “Yellow Vest” demonstrations). The only way to access the Principality via the “Moyenne Corniche” was via Boulevard du Jardin Exotique.

**Roadworks**

* Roadworks concern: renovation of roads (F1 Grand Prix); connection of new buildings to utilities (SMEG, Monaco Telecom, SMEaux, waste water); renovation and rescaling of networks.
* Alongside this work, it is important to underline that almost 5,300 requests for temporary occupancy of the highway were processed in 2018.
* Work to renovate networks on Boulevard du Jardin Exotique had become essential, having been delayed for two years. There was a risk that small and obsolete pipes could burst.
* SMEG: replacement of a significant part of the power distribution network
	+ Increase in the supply capacity of power cables
* Monaco Telecom: renovation of the phone network
	+ Removal of existing phone cables on the frontages of buildings, including cable network lines.
	+ Eligibility of new cables for new technologies, including optical fibre.
* SMEaux: replacement of pipes to secure the long-term future of the public network, benefit customers and develop the Principality’s urban facilities.
* Creation of a rainwater network, separate from the waste water network.

**Measures taken by the Government**

**1 - Heightened communication**

1 – To improve information for road users, we intend to strengthen real-time communication on traffic conditions.

Information from the CIGM already provided to Radio Monaco and Radio Vinci will now also be sent to the Government Communication Department, which will then publish it on the social networks.

We will work with Monaco Telecom to set up push news for all of their subscribers, who will receive real-time information about major traffic incidents with a significant impact.

2 – We will also strengthen our communication channels with neighbouring municipalities, to improve our response to incidents such as the Moyenne Corniche wall collapse.

**2- Special measures to tackle special circumstances:**

In order to manage the impact on traffic, the Government is implementing exceptional measures until 10 May, when the “Moyenne Corniche” is due to re-open to alternating one-way traffic.

Roadworks

1 – The visit by the Chinese President resulted in works on Boulevard du Jardin Exotique being extended by one week. To ensure it is finished as planned on Friday 10 May, we will be extending the hours during which the contractors are able to carry out noisy work.

On Saturday 11 May, normal traffic conditions will be restored on this major road (no alternating one-way traffic).

A second phase of work, to create a sanitary sewer between the roundabout on Boulevard de Belgique and Sainte Dévote bridge, has been postponed, as has the continuation of work on Boulevard du Jardin Exotique.

2 – Since Avenue Hector Otto is now the last point at which vehicles are able to access the Principality before the wall collapse, we are postponing current work on public lighting, to smooth traffic conditions on this thoroughfare. The work will be carried out during the school holidays.

3- In the Fontvieille district, work on the sanitation networks currently being carried out on Avenue de Fontvieille will be completed by 17 May and the road will be re-opened to one-way traffic (travelling up the Avenue).

A new tranche of work, originally due to begin at the bottom of Avenue de Fontvieille just after the Grand Prix and lasting three months, will now be postponed and the timetable revised in order to minimise its impact on traffic. The same applies to the final tranche of work on Avenue Albert II, opposite the shopping mall.

Use of bus lanes

Until 10 May, vehicles will be permitted to use four bus lanes in the Principality: Rue Grimaldi, Boulevard Albert Ier, Avenue d’Ostende and Boulevard Charles III, between Place d’Armes and Place du Canton.

Miniature train suspended

This week, the miniature train has voluntarily offered to suspend its activity.

We are grateful to the operator for its understanding of these exceptional circumstances.

**3- Heightened police checks**

Finally, we will be ordering more systematic police checks on unauthorised road use (stopping in the road, parking other than in designated spaces, etc.).

**4 - Additional measures**

In the longer term, other measures intended to promote soft mobility and the use of public transport are planned:

A new fleet of electric bicycles and new bike stations will be deployed in July (35 stations, including 3 in Beausoleil, and 290 bicycles). These stations are designed to be easier to use, with a dedicated app, card payments and specific rates for one-off use or for a day or week’s use).

Car parking charges will be reviewed, to encourage residents to use their vehicles less frequently. This measure is in addition to the “low mileage drivers” rate already applicable in public car parks (day/night subscription costing 93 euros instead of €103 for vehicles using public car parks fewer than 15 times per month).

These measures will add to the existing measures on the CAM network, which offers specially discounted rates including a card costing €10 for public and state-owned car park subscription holders, free passes for senior citizens, school students and children under 5, and a Day Pass costing €5.50.