

M42 Junction 6 Improvement TR010027

5.2 Annex C: Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Regulation 5(2)(q)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

Infrastructure Planning

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M42 Junction 6 Improvement

Development Consent Order 202 []

5.2 Consultation Report Annex C

Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

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M42 Junction 6 Improvement

Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

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October 2017

Introduction

1. Highways England is inviting your feedback on its planned scheme to build a new 1.5 mile (2.4 km) dual carriageway link road, between the A45 Clock Interchange and a new junction on the M42 south of Junction 6. The scheme is known as the M42 Junction 6 Improvement. The purpose of this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), prepared in accordance with section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 is to set out how we will consult on the scheme with the local community, residents, businesses, organisations and visitors to the areas. The document also provides background to the project and how the application to build it will progress and details of where further information can be viewed and how comments on the proposals can be made.

The Application

2. Highways England is developing this scheme under the Planning Act 2008 and is publishing this statement under section 47 of that Act. It has consulted both with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC), the local authority responsible for the area where the project will be built as well as neighbouring local authorities affected by the wider impact of the scheme about plans to consult the local community.
3. The proposed scheme is identified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. Consequently, this requires Highways England to make an application to the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate the scheme. The Secretary of State's role is to consider whether authorisation should be given for major infrastructure projects like this scheme. Highways England anticipates that a DCO application for the scheme will be published in August 2018. The Planning Inspectorate will examine the DCO application and the Secretary of State will decide on whether the scheme should go ahead.
4. This pre-application consultation will be an important time for you to provide feedback on this project. Comments made during this statutory consultation, will be recorded, and taken into account by Highways England when further developing the design of the preferred route and in the formulation of its DCO application.

More information about the Planning Inspectorate, the Planning Act 2008, and how you can get involved in the DCO process can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's national infrastructure planning website:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> or by calling them on **0303 444 5000**.

The Scheme

5. Junction 6 of the M42 connects the M42 to the A45 to the east of Birmingham near the National Exhibition Centre (NEC). It has almost reached capacity causing severe congestion and delays across the network. This congestion will increase as traffic levels grow due to the planned and aspirational developments in the area. In order to relieve the congestion, we plan to undertake a comprehensive upgrade of the junction, comprising of a new junction and new 1.5 mile (2.4 km) dual carriageway link road located south of the existing M42 Junction 6 and linking with the Clock Interchange on the A45, as well as improvements to existing M42 Junction 6 and Clock Interchange on the A45.
6. M42 Junction 6 lies at the heart of an area of dynamic growth and is surrounded by a unique mix of existing and proposed major assets that serve the local and wider economy. Existing assets include Birmingham Airport and International Railway Station, National Motorcycle Museum/National Conference Centre, Jaguar Land Rover and the National Exhibition Centre including Genting Arena and Resorts World. Major planned developments include the High Speed 2 (HS2) and Birmingham Interchange Station. There are also a number of aspirational developments which may have an impact on the scheme including the UK Central mixed use development and a proposed motorway service area (MSA) south of M42 Junction 6. The proposed junction improvements aim to support local infrastructure needs as part of the future growth plans of the West Midlands.
7. It is anticipated that potential adverse impacts of the scheme may include temporary disturbance to traffic flow relating to the M42 Junction 6 during construction. Negative impacts of the scheme will be mitigated wherever possible. More information on all aspects of the scheme will be available at the upcoming consultation events and in the published consultation material.
8. This scheme will improve the M42 Junction 6 by adding a new 1.5 mile (2.4 km) dual carriageway link road between the A45 Clock Interchange and a new junction on the M42 south of Junction 6, and aims to:
 - Increase capacity, to support and facilitate economic growth by providing adequate capacity on the network;

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- Improve the connectivity, reliability and resilience of the network, as well as improve the transport economic efficiency of business users, commuting and other users, principally in the form of savings in journey time;
 - Provide access to key assets and support economic growth, balancing the needs of individuals and businesses that rely on M42 Junction 6;
 - Promote reliable and safe operation of the M42 corridor; and
 - Unlock the potential for economic growth in the area, as well as supporting the development and implementation of the long-term Midlands Transport Strategy.
9. Because of its potential impacts, this scheme falls within the scope of the Infrastructure Planning Environmental Assessment Regulations 2017, meaning that an Environmental Statement (ES) will be submitted as part of the DCO application in accordance with Regulation 12. The Preliminary Information (PEI) Report will form part of the consultation material. The ES will set out an assessment of the scheme's environmental effects and indicates the mitigation measures that we expect to implement to minimise negative effects.
10. A Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) report has been developed which includes information on environmental impacts related to the scheme based on assessment work done to date. The PEI report and a non-technical summary (NTS) will be available until xx February 2018. A copy of the PEI report and the NTS are also available online or to view at the venues listed.

Consulting the Community

11. In accordance with section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, Highways England is consulting people living in the vicinity of the proposed scheme.

Formal Consultation

12. Highways England want to make sure that the local community, the residents, local interest groups, businesses, visitors and road users all have the opportunity to fully understand the proposed scheme and comment on our proposals. To do this we are holding a public consultation in January 2018 for 6 weeks during which we will provide information on the preferred route, including design development since the preferred route announcement on 7 August 2017.
13. The preferred route includes the following elements:

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- A new 1.5 miles (2.4 km) dual carriageway link road aligned to the west of Bickenhill, will link the Clock Interchange and a new junction on the M42 south of Junction 6, to allow traffic travelling northbound to exit the M42 and traffic travelling southbound to join the M42.
 - Improvements to the Clock Interchange and the A45 between the Clock Interchange and the M42 will accommodate the additional flows of traffic.
 - Free flow links around the north-west and north-east of the M42 Junction 6 will improve access to Birmingham Airport and the A45 west.
 - The new dual carriageway will be to the west of Bickenhill, to be built generally below ground level, passing beneath the B4438 (Catherine-de-Barnes Lane), near Bickenhill and towards the M42. The alignment would tie closely into the existing local road corridor to minimise effect on the Green Belt.
 - Improvements to the south-east side of the M42 Junction 6, the A45 westbound (east of the M42 Junction 6) and the M42 Junction 6 southbound slip roads will be made to improve the performance around this quadrant of the junction.
14. Highways England will be using a range of methods during the consultation period to ensure that the local community has an opportunity to view and comment on the proposals. This will include:

Consultation Events

15. Consultation events will be held at a number of locations in the local and surrounding area of the scheme to give people an opportunity to view scheme proposals, talk to the project team and provide comments.
- St Peters Church Hall, Bickenhill, B92 0DT
 - Fentham Hall, Marsh Land, Hampton-in-Arden, B92 0AH
 - Catherine-de-Barnes Village Hall, 40 Hampton Lane, B91 2PZ
 - The Arden Hotel, Coventry Road, Solihull, B92 0EH
 - Online webchat

Unmanned exhibitions

16. Unmanned exhibition boards of the scheme will be displayed at locations within or near the scheme including:
- The Core, Homer Road, Solihull, B91 3RG

- The NEC, North Avenue, Birmingham, B40 1NT
- **XX**

In terms of wider engagement and to provide long distance travellers with the opportunity to attend the consultation events and share their views and comments on the scheme, large posters detailing the dates, times and locations of all the consultation events, together with details of where to find more information, will be displayed at key traffic generators and motorway service areas in the vicinity of M42 Junction 6. Key traffic generators include the National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham Airport, NEC, Resorts World and Birmingham International Train Station. Motorway service areas include Hopwood (M42), Tamworth (M42), Corley (M6), Warwick Northbound (M40) and Frankley Northbound (M5). In addition, PDF versions of the poster will be emailed to key businesses in the area, including Birmingham Airport, NEC and Jaguar Land Rover, requesting onward dissemination to staff.

Scheme website

17. A full summary of the scheme, copies of the consultation material and PEI report, as well as the questionnaire will be provided on a dedicated scheme website: www.highways.gov.uk/m42-j6

Consultation brochure

18. A consultation brochure providing information about the Scheme and the issues being consulted on will be available to view on the scheme website, at consultation events and deposit points and on request from Highways England.

Council and community/ area forum briefings

19. Local council and community/ area forums within the proposed scheme area will be offered briefings to discuss the proposals. We have already met with Marston Green and Bickenhill Parish Council and Hampton in Arden Parish Council. When invited, and where it is possible to do so, the project team will attend meetings of local community groups affected by the proposal. We have already met with the Warwickshire Gaelic Athletics Association.

Consultation feedback

20. Comments on the scheme can be made by:
 - Completing the questionnaire – this will be available at all consultation events or online by visiting: www.highways.gov.uk/m42-j6

- Email – m42junction6@highwaysengland.co.uk
- Post – Highways England, M42 J6 Project Team, The Cube, 199 Wharfside Street, Birmingham, B1 1RN

Deposit point locations

21. You can also view consultation material during normal opening hours at each of the following deposit points. Materials available for inspection will include the consultation brochure, PEI report, NTS, SoCC, S48 Notice, DCO leaflet and plans of the scheme.

- **SMBC offices**
Council House, Manor Square, Solihull, B91 3QB
- **Birmingham City Council offices**
Council House, Waterloo Street, Birmingham, B1 1BB
- **Warwickshire County Council offices**
Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4RL
- **Balsall Common Library**
283 Kenilworth Road, Balsall Common, Coventry, CV7 7EL
- **Castle Bromwich Library**
Hurst Lane North, Castel Bromwich, Birmingham, B36 0EY
- **Chelmsley Wood Library**
Chelmsley Wood Shopping Centre, Birmingham, B37 5TN
- **Dickens Heath Library**
Old Dickens Heath Road, Dickens Heath, Solihull, B90 1SD
- **Hampton-in-Arden Library**
39 Fentham Road, Hampton-in-Arden, Solihull, B92 0AY
- **Hobs Moat Library**
Ulleries Road, Hobs Moat, Solihull, B92 8EB
- **Kingshurst Library**
Marston Drive, Kingshurst, Birmingham, B37 6BD
- **Knowle Library**
Chester House, 1667-1669 High Street, Knowle, Solihull, B93 0LL
- **Marston Green Library**
Land Lane, Marston Green, Birmingham, B37 7DQ
- **Olton Library**
169A Warwick Road, Olton, Solihull, B92 7AR
- **Shirley Library**
22 Park Gate, Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 3GG
- **Solihull Central**
Solihull Library, Homer Road, Solihull, B91 3RG

22. All of this information will be available free of charge. You will be able to take away paper copies of the Consultation Brochure, which includes the questionnaire and

the non-technical summary of the PEI report free of charge. Paper copies of other documents can be provided on request. Please contact the project team for further details.

Next steps

23. All comments made on the scheme will be recorded and carefully considered by Highways England and will be taken into account in developing the scheme proposal. An explanation of how comments received have shaped and influenced our proposals, will be reported in a Consultation Report prepared by Highways England which will accompany the DCO application as required by section 37(3) (c) of the Planning Act 2008. The Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination, and will determine whether Highways England's pre-application consultation has been adequate.
24. Highways England will collect and assess all responses to consultation before submitting the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate. To allow time to do this, Highways England asks for feedback to be submitted by the close of statutory consultation at the **End of February 2018**.
25. If you want to contact Highways England to find out more about the scheme and/or respond to the consultation, you can use one of the following methods:
 - Attend any of the public consultation events where you can meet the project team and complete a consultation questionnaire.
 - Visit the scheme webpage and view the Consultation material online, where you can complete the consultation questionnaire :
www.highways.gov.uk/m42-j6
 - Collect a consultation questionnaire at one of the public viewing places and post it to; Highways England, M42 J6 Project Team, The Cube, 199 Wharfside Street, Birmingham, B1 1RN.
 - Email: m42junction6@highwaysengland.co.uk
 - Write to us at Highways England, M42 J6 Project Team, The Cube, 199 Wharfside Street, Birmingham, B1 1RN
 - Call 0300 123 5000 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday).
 - If you would like a representative to attend at a local event please get in touch.
 - The deadline for all responses is 23:59 on **xx** February 2018