

M4 junctions 3 to 12 smart motorway

Statement of Community Consultation

The Highways Agency is inviting your feedback on its planned scheme to improve the M4 motorway (M4) between junctions 3 and 12 to a smart motorway (the scheme). The purpose of this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) is to set out how it will consult the local community about its proposals. This SoCC provides details of where further information can be obtained or viewed and how comments on the proposals can be made. The document also provides background to the Scheme and how the application to build it will progress.

The application

The Highways Agency is promoting the Scheme under the Planning Act 2008 (the Act) and is publishing this SoCC under Section 47 of the Act.

The Scheme is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). Therefore the Highways Agency is required to make an application to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate the Scheme.

The Highways Agency anticipates that a DCO application for the scheme will be submitted to the Secretary of State in early 2015.

You can find more information about the Planning Inspectorate and the Act on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/> or by calling the planning inspectorate on **0303 444 5000**.

The scheme

The M4 is the main strategic route between London and the West of England and Wales. It provides direct access to the M25 and Heathrow Airport. The M4 from junction 3 (Hayes) to junction 12 (Theale) is approximately 32 miles long and carries over 130,000 vehicles per day. It currently suffers from heavy congestion, and unpredictable journey times. Traffic on the M4 is expected to increase significantly over the next 20 years and without improvements to the route, this will result in further congestion.

This Scheme will upgrade the M4 to a smart motorway and aims to:

- Relieve congestion and smooth the flow of traffic
- Improve journey times and journey time reliability
- Support economic development and facilitate economic growth within the region
- Minimise the effect of the scheme on the environment

The key changes that you will see on the M4 are:

- Hard shoulder will be permanently converted to a running lane
- Provision of emergency refuge areas
- Signs and signals providing information about speed limits, travel conditions and any lane closures
- The replacement and adjustment of some bridges
- Some compulsory acquisition of land will be required to complete this work, however no demolition of residential properties is required.

Smart motorways typically have a lower environmental impact than traditional motorway widening schemes as there is less physical work. This minimises the potential impact on watercourses, habitats and landscapes. Additionally, the technology used for smart motorways allows traffic flows to be regulated; reducing congestion.

Because of its size and potential impacts, the scheme falls within the scope of the environmental impact assessment directive, meaning that an environmental impact assessment (EIA) will be carried out. When the EIA process is complete an environmental statement (ES) will be produced. The ES will set out an assessment of the scheme's environmental effects, along with proposed mitigation.

Consulting the community

In accordance with Section 47 of the Act, the Highways Agency is consulting people living in the vicinity of the scheme.

Formal consultation

The Highways Agency wants to make sure that the local community, residents, local interest groups, businesses, visitors and road users have the opportunity to understand the Scheme and comment on our proposals. To do this we are undertaking consultation until 21 December 2014, during which time we will seek feedback on the proposed scheme.

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. Copies of the PEI report will be available at all consultation events and information points, as well as on our website:

www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/M4-Junctions-3-12

As part of the DCO application, an ES will be submitted to outline how environmental impacts have been considered and the mitigation measures we propose.

The PEI report and a non-technical summary (NTS) will be available until 21 December 2014. A copy of the PEI report and the NTS are also available online or to view at the venues listed.

The Highways Agency 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:

Public information exhibitions

Public exhibitions will be held at eleven locations along the route of the scheme to give people an opportunity to view the scheme proposals, speak with the project team and provide comments.

The Royal Berkshire Conference Centre Madejski Stadium, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 0FL. Tuesday 18 November 2014 (2pm – 8pm)
Stockley Pines Golf Course, Stockley Park Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB11 1AQ Thursday 20 November 2014 (2pm – 8pm)
Theale Village Hall, Englefield Road, Theale Reading, Berkshire, RG7 5AS Friday 21 November 2014 (2pm – 8pm)
Holyport War Memorial Hall, Moneyrow Green Holyport, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 2NA Saturday 22 November 2014 (10am – 4pm)
Datchet Womens Institute Hall The Green, Horton Road, Datchet, SL3 9NU. Wednesday 26 November 2014 (2pm – 8pm).
Queensmere Observatory Shopping Centre High Street, Slough, SL1 1LN Thursday 27 November 2014 (9am – 7pm).
Winnersh Community Centre New Road, Wokingham, RG41 5DU. Friday 28 November 2014 (2pm – 8pm).
Colnbrook Village Hall Vicarage Way, Colnbrook, Berkshire, SL3 0RF. Saturday 29 November 2014 (10am – 4pm).
Heston Imperial Sports Ground Crane Lodge Road, Middlesex TW5 9PQ. Thursday 4 December 2014 (2pm – 8pm).
The Centre Farnham Road, Slough. Berkshire SL1 4UT Friday 5 December 2014 (2pm – 8pm).
Iver Village Hall Grange Way, Iver, Buckinghamshire, SL0 9NW. Saturday 6 December 2014 (10am – 4pm)



Unmanned exhibitions

Unmanned exhibition boards of the scheme will be displayed at locations within or near to the scheme including:

- Heathrow Airport
- Heston Services junction 2-3
- Reading Services junction 11-12
- Chieveley Services junction 13

Scheme website

A full summary of the scheme, copies of the consultation material and PEI report (including NTS), as well as the questionnaire will be provided on a dedicated scheme website: www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/M4-Junctions-3-12.

Consultation brochure

A consultation brochure providing information about the Scheme and the issues being consulted on will be available to view on the scheme website, at public information exhibitions and deposit points and on request from the highways agency.

Council and community / area forum briefings

Local councils and community / area forums within the proposed scheme area will be offered briefings to discuss the proposals.

Consultation feedback

Comments on the scheme can be made by:

- Completing the questionnaire – this will be available at all exhibitions or online by visiting: www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/M4-Junctions-3-12
- Email – M4J3to12SmartMotorway@highways.gsi.gov.uk
- Post – Highways Agency, Major Projects, The Cube, 199 Wharfedale Street, Birmingham, B1 1RN

Deposit point locations

You can also view consultation material during normal opening hours until 21 December 2014 at each of the following deposit points. Materials available for inspection will include consultation brochure, PEI report, NTS, questionnaire, SoCC, S48 Notice, Planning Act 2008 fact sheet and plans of the scheme.

West Drayton

West Drayton Library, Station Road, West Drayton UB7 7JS

Slough

Slough Library, 85 High Street, Slough SL1 1EA

Windsor and Maidenhead

Windsor and Maidenhead Council, Town Hall, St Ives Road, Maidenhead SL6 1RF

Theale

Theale Library, Church Street, Theale, Reading, West Berkshire RG7 5BZ

Wokingham

Wokingham Library, Denmark Street, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 2BB

Windsor

Windsor Library, Bachelors Acre, Windsor SL4 1ER

Binfield

Binfield Library, Benetfeld Road, Binfield Bracknell RG42 4JZ

Burnham

Burnham Library, Windsor Lane, Burnham, Buckinghamshire SL1 7HR

Cippenham

Cippenham Library, Elmshott Lane, Cippenham, Slough SL1 5RB

Datchet

Datchet Library, Montagu House, 8 Horton Road, Datchet, Slough SL3 9ER

Eton Wick

Eton Wick Library, Village Hall, Eton Wick, Slough SL4 6LT

Whitley

Whitley Library, 205 Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 7PX

Denham

Denham Parish Council, Village Road, Denham UB9 5BN

Chalvey

Chalvey Community Centre, The Green, Chalvey SL1 2SP

Hounslow

Cranford Library, Bath Road, Hounslow, Greater London TW5 9TL

All of this information will be available to view 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. Copies of the scheme plans and PEI report can be provided on a DVD on request. Please contact the project team for further details.

Next steps

All comments received during the consultation will be recorded and carefully considered by the project team, and will be taken into account in developing the scheme proposals. A consultation report, which summarises the views and comments received, and outlines how your views have been taken into consideration will be prepared by the Highways Agency.

The consultation report will accompany the DCO application as required by Section 37(3) (c) of the Act. That report may include copies of representations. The Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the submitted DCO application meets the required standards to proceed to examination, and will determine whether the Highways Agency's pre-application consultation has been adequate.

The Highways Agency will collect and assess all consultation responses before submitting the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate. To allow time to do this, we must receive your consultation feedback by the 21 December 2014

If you want to contact the Highways Agency, find out more about this consultation or request documents, you can:

Visit the scheme webpage:

www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/M4-Junctions-3-12

E-mail: M4J3to12SmartMotorway@highways.gsi.gov.uk

Calling us on: 0300 123 5000

Write to: Highways Agency, Major Projects, M4 junction 3-12 smart motorway team, The Cube, 199 Wharfedale Street, Birmingham, B1 1RN

The deadline for all responses is 23:59 on Sunday 21 December 2014.

* Calls to 03 numbers cost no more than a national rate call to an 01 or 02 number and must count towards any inclusive minutes in the same way as 01 and 02 calls. These rules apply to calls from any type of line including mobile, BT, other fixed line or payphone. Calls may be recorded or monitored.

In accordance with Section 47(6)(a) of the Planning Act 2008, this SOCC is being published in newspapers circulating in the vicinity of the land to provide notice of where and when the SOCC may be inspected.