

A63 Castle Street Improvement Statement of Community Consultation

The Highways Agency is inviting feedback on its planned improvements to the A63 Castle Street (the project) in Hull between the St James Street/Porter Street junctions and the Market Place/Queen Street junctions. The purpose of this document, known as the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), is to set out how the Highways Agency will consult the local community about its proposals for the project. It provides details of where further information can be obtained or viewed and how comments on the proposals can be made.

The Application

The project is classed as a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (the Act). As such we are required to make an application for a development consent order (DCO) to construct the project. We intend to make our application by spring 2014. The application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate who will examine the application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport, who decides on whether it should go ahead.

Under the Act, the Highways Agency is required to consult on its proposals before submitting an application for a DCO. The Highways Agency has prepared this SoCC in accordance with Section 47 of the Act. As required by the Act we have consulted Hull City Council, the local authority in whose area the project would be built, about our plans to consult the local community and have taken their comments into account.

Comments made during the public consultation period will be recorded and carefully considered by the Highways Agency in developing further the proposals for the project. Consultation with people living in the vicinity of a proposed development site is an important aspect of any NSIP and will help to deliver a better project outcome.

More information about the Planning Inspectorate and the Planning Act 2008 can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's national infrastructure planning website: <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk> or by calling them on 0303 444 5000.

The Project

The Highways Agency is proposing to relieve congestion and provide better access to the Port of Hull by improving the A63 between the St James Street/Porter Street junctions and the Market Place/Queen Street junctions. The route currently experiences severe congestion, particularly around the Mytongate junction, due to the traffic signals and high proportion of heavy goods vehicles. The objectives of the project are to:

- reduce traffic congestion;

- improve access to the port;
- improve safety for road users and the local community; and
- reduce severance between the city centre and the leisure facilities to the south of the A63 Castle Street.

The project is approximately 0.9 miles long and the main aspects are:

- improving the Mytongate junction by lowering the A63 by approximately 7 metres and raising Ferensway/Commercial Road by approximately 1 metre to cross the A63 on a new bridge. At the public consultation undertaken in 2009 this was referred to as the 'underground option';
- widening the eastbound carriageway between the Princes Dock Street junction and Market Place to three lanes;
- removing existing signalised pedestrian crossings and providing new pedestrian and non motorised user (NMU) footbridge crossings;
- changes to side roads and local property access to improve safety; and
- localised diversion of third-party utilities that currently cross beneath the existing A63.

The local community would benefit from reduced congestion, more reliable journey times, reduced severance between the city centre and the leisure facilities to the south of Castle Street and improved safety. Possible negative impacts will be mitigated where appropriate, but relate in particular to the increased risk of flooding, changes to side roads and private accesses, potential negative impact on the air quality, and potential impacts to Grade II listed structures and the Trinity burial ground.

Consultation

A consultation exercise was held in Spring 2009 on six options. The consultation found an overall preference for the underground option. This option was subsequently announced as the preferred route in March 2010 and is the basis of the current design.

Since the preferred route announcement, the design has been developed further and we are now able to present it in more detail and seek further views on the project proposals. We are therefore holding a seven week public consultation, starting on **Friday 28 June 2013** and ending on **Thursday 15 August 2013**. The consultation will focus on the development of the preferred route. Our consultation materials will provide information on the proposed layout, junction and access arrangements, including design development since the preferred route announcement.

The project is an environmental impact assessment development (EIA development), as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009. An environmental statement will be submitted as part of the DCO application and, in accordance with regulation 10, preliminary environmental information can be found in our EIA scoping report which will form part of the consultation material. The EIA scoping report presents environmental information that we have gained to date and explains how we plan to further assess the environmental effects of the project. It indicates in general terms the mitigation measures that we expect to implement in order to minimise negative impacts of the project. We will confirm those mitigation measures in the environmental impact assessment and incorporate them into the design of the project.

All comments received will be considered and will influence, where possible and affordable, further refinements to the project and our approach to environmental mitigation.

We will be using a range of approaches during the consultation period to ensure that the local community has an opportunity to view and comment on the proposals. This will involve:

Consultation events

Two consultation events will be held at The Royal Hotel, 170 Ferensway, Hull, HU1 3UF. The first event will take place on **Friday 19 July 2013** from 13:00 until 20:00 and **Saturday 20 July 2013** from 10:00 until 16:00. The second event will take place on **Saturday 10 August 2013** 12:00 until 20:00.

Consultation leaflet and questionnaire

The issue of our consultation leaflet and questionnaire, providing information about the project and the issues being consulted on, to homes, businesses and special interest groups located to the south of the A63 between Alfred St and the River Hull and also properties located to the north of the A63 between Walker Street and High Street

Meetings with local community

Meetings with local residents, businesses and groups about either the project in general or particular issues, these can be requested by using the contact details at the bottom of this document.

Publication of our consultation materials

The publication of our consultation materials; including the consultation leaflet, questionnaire, a scheme layout plan, the preliminary environmental information in the form of our EIA scoping report, copies of our consultation event boards, and this SoCC can be accessed on our Project webpage:

www.highways.gov.uk/a63castlestreet

Newspaper publication

The SoCC will be published in the Hull Daily Mail on 27 June 2013.

Documents for inspection

These consultation materials will also be available to view between Friday 28 June and Thursday 15 August 2013 at the following community facilities:

Venue	Opening hours
Hull Central Library Albion Street Hull East Riding of Yorkshire HU1 3FT Tel: 01482 210000	Monday and Wednesday: 09.30 – 18.00 Tuesday and Thursday: 09.30 – 19.00 Friday: 09.30 – 17.30 Saturday: 10.00 – 16.00
Anlaby Park Library The Greenway Anlaby High Road East Riding of Yorkshire HU4 6XH Tel: 01482 614483	Monday and Thursday: 13.30 – 18.00 Tuesday: 09.30 – 12.30 Saturday: 09.30 – 13.00.
Bransholme Library NorthPoint Shopping Centre Goodhart Road Bransholme East Riding of Yorkshire HU7 4EF Tel: 01482 331234	Monday, Tuesday and Friday: 09.30 – 12.30 and 13.30 – 17.00 Thursday: 09.30 – 12.30 and 13.30 – 18.00 Saturday: 09.30 – 13.30
Ings Library Savoy Road Hull East Riding of Yorkshire HU8 0TY Tel: 01482 331250	Monday and Friday: 09.30 – 12.30 and 13.30 – 17.00 Tuesday and Thursday: 13.00 – 18.00 Wednesday: 09.30 – 13.30 Saturday: 09.30 – 13.30
Gipsyville Library 728-730 Hessle High Road Hull East Riding of Yorkshire HU4 6JA Tel: 01482 616973	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 09.00 – 17.30 Tuesday: 09.00 – 19.30 Saturday: 10.00 – 13.00 and 14.00 – 16.00
Kingston House 2 nd Floor	Monday – Thursday: 08.30 – 17.00

Bond Street Hull East Riding of Yorkshire HU1 3ER Tel: 01482 300300	Friday: 08.30 – 16.30
Highways Agency, Lateral, 8 City Walk Leeds, LS11 9AT Tel: 0113 2836220	Monday to Friday: 09.00– 17.00

Please note that viewing locations may be closed on Bank Holidays.

Documents for purchase

All of the consultation materials will be available to view free of charge on our website and at the locations listed above. Copies of the consultation materials may be requested from the Highways Agency using the email address, postal address or telephone number listed below. A CD copy can be provided free of charge upon request. Paper copies of the consultation leaflet and SoCC will be supplied free of charge upon request. Paper copies of the other consultation materials are priced at £15 for the EIA scoping report, £10 for an A3 copy of the consultation event boards and £7.50 for an A1 copy of the scheme layout plan. Prices include VAT at 20% and UK postage. Please contact the Highways Agency for further details regarding payment methods.

Consultation report

Following the consultation period we will produce a consultation report to summarise the views and comments received and outline how they have been taken into consideration in developing the project further. We will send this report to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the DCO application. The Planning Inspectorate will decide whether our application meets the required standards to proceed to examination, and will determine whether our pre-application consultation has been adequate.

Making your comments

Comments on our proposals can be made by:

Completing our questionnaire, which is enclosed with the consultation leaflet and is also available to complete online on the Project webpage at www.highways.gov.uk/a63castlestreet. Alternatively a paper copy can be printed from the webpage. A paper copy can also be requested free of charge by contacting the project team.

Emailing us at A63CastleStreet.Hull@highways.gsi.gov.uk

Writing to us at: A63 Castle Street Improvement Project Team, Highways Agency, Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT.

If you have any questions about this consultation, please contact the project team using any of these details or by calling 0113 2836220.

All responses received by **15 August** will be taken into account in developing our proposals further.