

A19/A1058 Coast Road junction improvement scheme statement of community consultation (SoCC)

The Highways Agency is inviting feedback on its planned improvements to the A19/A1058 Coast Road junction in North Tyneside. The purpose of this document, known as the statement of community consultation (SoCC) is to set out how the Agency will consult the local community about the proposals for the project. It also 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. 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 autumn 2014. The application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate. They will examine the application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport, who will make a decision on whether the project should go ahead.

Under the Planning Act, the Highways Agency is required to consult on its proposals before submitting an application for a DCO. The Agency has prepared this SoCC in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act. As required by the Planning Act we have consulted North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council, South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne City Council and Northumberland County Council 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 Agency in developing the proposals for the project.

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 improve journey times, increase capacity and improve road safety for both road users and local residents at the A19/A1058 Coast Road junction. The junction currently suffers severe congestion at peak times and an accident rate 50 percent higher than the national average. Traffic flows are expected to increase significantly in the future. The objectives of the project are:

- To reduce congestion, increase capacity and improve journey times.
- To improve road safety for both road users and the local community.

- To support regeneration in Tyne & Wear and Northumberland.
- To seek to reduce severance by maintaining or improving facilities for pedestrians & cyclists crossing and travelling along the route.

The proposed improvements to the junction include:

- Lowering the A19, beneath the existing roundabout, in a cutting to provide a free flowing link;
- Constructing two bridges to carry the roundabout traffic across the lowered A19;
- Constructing a replacement bridge to support the A1058 Coast Road across the junction; and
- Constructing new slips roads to provide access to the junction to and from the lowered A19.

Drivers will benefit from reduced congestion and more reliable journey times through the junction. Vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists using the crossings at the junction should benefit from a reduction in the number of vehicles using the junction. Any negative impacts will be mitigated where possible. These are anticipated to relate to the possibility of increased congestion and pollution during the construction period, some loss and severance of environmental habitats and changes to the local air quality and noise around the junction.

More information on all aspects of the scheme will be available at the upcoming consultation event and in the published consultation material.

Consultation

A consultation exercise was held between November 2009 and March 2010 on three recommended options and three non-recommended options. The consultation found an overall preference for the A19 to be lowered beneath the existing roundabout in a cutting. This option was subsequently announced as the preferred route in July 2012.

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 proposals. We are therefore holding an eight week public consultation, commencing on 22 November 2013 and ending on 17 January 2014. The consultation will focus on the development of the preferred route. Our consultation materials will provide information on the proposed layout including the design development since the preferred route announcement.

The Planning Inspectorate confirmed in September 2013 that the project is not an environmental impact assessment development (EIA) as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009. However, we will carry out environmental reporting into the impacts of the project which will indicate in general terms the mitigation measures that we expect to use in order to minimise negative effects. The findings will be consulted on and form part of our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate.

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

The consultation will be carried out in accordance with the Government's Consultation Principles. More information about these principles can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance

If you have reason to believe this consultation does not comply with the Consultation Principles please write to our consultation co-ordinator at the address below setting out the areas where you believe we have not met the criteria:

Ian Sweeting, Highways Agency, The Cube, 199 Wharfside Street, Birmingham, B1 1RN

Alternatively you can email him at ian.sweeting@highways.gsi.gov.uk

We 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 involve:

Consultation event

A consultation event will be held at the Travelodge Silverlink Hotel, Coast Road, Wallsend, Newcastle, NE28 9HP on **Friday 29 November 2013 between 2.00pm and 8.00pm & Saturday 30 November 2013 between 10.00am and 4.00pm**

Consultation leaflet and questionnaire

A consultation leaflet and questionnaire, providing information about the project and the issues being consulted on, will be distributed to homes and businesses in Willington & the Tyne Tunnel Trading Estate south of the Coast Road Junction, Battle Hill and Silverlink north of the Coast Road Junction. We will also distribute the leaflet and questionnaire to groups with a special interest in the project.

Meetings with the local community

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

Publication of our consultation materials

Our consultation materials, including the consultation leaflet, questionnaire, a scheme layout plan, the preliminary environmental information, copies of our consultation event boards and this SoCC will be published on the scheme project webpage, via the Highways Agency website:

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/a19a1058coastroadjunctionimprovement>

Newspaper publication

The SoCC will be published in a local newspaper, the Newcastle Journal on 22 November 2013.

Documents for inspection

The deposit of the consultation materials will be available for viewing between 22 November 2013 and 17 January 2014 at the following community facilities:

Venue	Opening Hours
North Tyneside Council Planning Reception Quadrant The Silverlink North Cobalt Business Park North Tyneside NE27 0BY Tel: 0345 2000 101	Monday to Thursday: 8.30am – 5.00pm Friday: 8.30am – 4.30pm
Wallsend Library Ferndale Avenue Wallsend Tyne & Wear NE28 7NB Tel: 0191 643 2075	Monday: 9.30am – 5.30pm Tuesday: 9.00am – 7.00pm Wednesday: 9.00am – 12.30pm Thursday: 9.00am – 7.00pm Friday: 9.00am – 5.30pm Saturday: 9.00am – 5.00pm
North Shields Central Library Northumberland Square North Shields NE30 1QU Tel: 0191 643 5270	Monday: 9.00am – 5.00pm Tuesday: 9.00am – 7.00pm Wednesday: 9.00am – 5.00pm Thursday: 9.00am – 7.00pm Friday: 9.00am – 5.30pm Saturday: 9.00am – 5.00pm

<p>Howdon Library Churchill Street Howdon Wallsend NE28 7TG Tel: 0191 643 2070</p>	<p>Monday: 9.00am – 1.00pm, 2.00pm – 5.30pm Tuesday: 9.00am – 1.00pm, 2.00pm – 7.00pm Wednesday: 9.00am – 12.30pm Thursday: 9.00am – 1.00pm, 2.00pm – 5.00pm Friday: 9.00am – 1.00pm, 2.00pm – 5.30pm Saturday: 9.00am – 1.00pm, 2.00pm – 5.00pm</p>
<p>Battle Hill Library Coastway Shopping Forum Battle Hill Wallsend NE28 9JE Tel: 0191 643 2255</p>	<p>Monday: 9.00am – 1.00pm, 2.00pm – 5.30pm Tuesday: 9.00am – 1.00pm, 2.00pm – 5.00pm Thursday: 9.00am – 1.00pm, 2.00pm – 7.00pm Friday: 9.00am – 1.00pm, 2.00pm – 5.30pm Saturday: 9.00am – 12.30pm</p>
<p>South Tyneside Council Customer Service Centre Town Hall & Civic Offices Westoe Road South Shields Tyne & Wear NE33 2RL Tel: 0191 427 7000</p>	<p>Monday to Thursday: 8.30am - 5.00pm Friday: 8.30am - 4.30pm</p>
<p>Jarrow Library Cambrian Street Jarrow NE32 3QN Tel: 0191 489 7786</p>	<p>Monday: 9.30am – 5.00pm Tuesday: 9.30am – 7.00pm Thursday: 9.30am – 7.00pm Friday: 9.30am – 5.00pm Saturday: 12.00pm – 4.00pm</p>
<p>Highways Agency Lateral 8 City Walk Leeds LS11 9AT Tel: 0113 283 5370/0113 283 5810</p>	<p>Monday to Friday: 8.30am – 5.00pm</p>

Documents for purchase

All the consultation materials above will be available to view free of charge on our website and the facilities listed above. Copies of consultation materials may be requested from the Highways Agency using the e-mail 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 £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 in spring 2014 to summarise the views and comments received and outline how they have been taken into consideration in developing the project. We will send this report to the Planning Inspectorate as part of our DCO application. The Planning Inspectorate will decide whether our application meets the required standards, determines whether our pre-application consultation has been adequate and if the project can proceed to examination.

Making your comments

Comments on our proposals can be made by:

Completing our questionnaire, which will be enclosed with the consultation leaflet and is also available to complete online on the project webpage. Alternatively a paper copy can be printed from the webpage or requested free of charge by contacting the project team as follows:

Email us – a19coastroadenquiries@highways.gsi.gov.uk

Write to us at: A19/A1058 Coast Road Project Team, Highways Agency, Lateral, Major Projects North, 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 us at 0113 283 5370 or 0113 283 5810.

All responses received by **17 January 2014** will be taken into account in developing our proposals further.