

Meeting minutes

Phase 2b Planning Forum – Highways Subgroup Minutes #1 – March 2023

Meeting date	Tuesday, 21 March 2023
Meeting location	ARUP offices, Manchester, and Microsoft Teams
Meeting time	13:00 pm – 15:00 pm

Presenters
Chair: Head of Highways and Drainage Engineering HS2 Ltd
Highways: Senior Traffic Manager HS2 Ltd, Engineer – drainage HS2 Ltd
Project Update: Technical Engagement Manager HS2 Ltd
Coordinator: Technical Engagement Manager HS2 Ltd
Attendees
Organisation
Cheshire East Council
Cheshire West and Chester Council
Manchester City Council
National Highways
Trafford Council
Transport for Greater Manchester

1 Agenda item – Welcome and Introduction

- 1.1 The Head of Highways and Drainage Engineering as Chair, HS2 Ltd asked all attendees to introduce themselves and went through the agenda and housekeeping.

Action 1: Circulate the presentation slides.

2 Agenda item – Action Log

- 2.1 Technical Engagement Manager, HS2 Ltd went through the status of all actions from the previous 2B Highways Subgroup meeting.

3 Agenda item – Comment Sheets

- 3.1 Technical Engagement Manager, HS2 Ltd provided a verbal update advising that the Highways subgroup are yet to ask members to comment on any documents.

4 Agenda item – Project Update

- 4.1 Technical Engagement Manager, HS2 Ltd gave an update on the Phase 2B Crewe – Manchester Bill.

5 Agenda item – Managing Highway Condition Introduction

- 5.1 Senior Traffic Manager, HS2 Ltd gave an introduction to managing highway condition and explained the stages of the highway condition remediation process flow.

Questions and discussion

Manchester City Council queried if the process flow is related to all routes or just lorry routes.

Senior Traffic Manager, HS2 advised that the surveys are done on B class roads, and the claims process operates on any class of roads.

Manchester City Council advised that the council have a lot of data and queried if HS2 are able to use the data Manchester City Council already has.

Senior Traffic Manager, HS2 explained how HS2 will have discussions with local authorities, and there may be an opportunity to go and see what data the local authorities already hold.

Cheshire East Council asked how quickly the claims process is.

Senior Traffic Manager, HS2 advised that the claims process can take around 3 – 4 months however, HS2 are looking at processing improvements.

Manchester City Council queried how the claims process works on larger scale highways when there are two routes to claim.

Senior Traffic Manager, HS2 explained how all claims so far have come through to HS2, and direct damage to highways is likely to be associated with the contractor who would identify the damage and notify the highways authority.

Manchester City Council asked for further detail and clarification specifically regarding; how the contractor would identify the damage and then notify the HA; who's judgement is used to confirm damage and responsibility; what assessments are undertaken; and how any disputes are managed in practice.

Transport for Greater Manchester asked what happens on designated lorry routes where there is rat running.

Senior Traffic Manager, HS2 explained how claims can be made by any HS2 vehicle.

Transport for Greater Manchester queried how much information local authorities would need to provide to HS2 as a result of damage to the roads.

Senior Traffic Manager, HS2 advised that HS2 would look at Google data, and/or do a site visit as well as also identifying the trends before making a decision.

Action 2: HS2 Ltd provide further information and clarifications on Highway Conditions management and detailed processes at a future sub group meeting (asap)

6 Agenda item – Permanent Highway Works – Guidance Notes

- 6.1 The Chair, HS2 Ltd explained how HS2 have a set of guidance notes for highways works and provided subgroup members with an overview.

Questions and discussion

Transport for Greater Manchester queried if HS2 will be issuing the guidance notes documents for comments or for information.

The Chair, HS2 advised that the documents will be issued for information however, if subgroup members have any questions or wish to make any comments they are able to do so.

Action 3: circulate the future programme of works to subgroup members.

Action 4: upload the guidance notes documents to the Highways SharePoint.

7 Agenda item – Future Programme of Topics

- 7.1 Senior Traffic Manager, HS2 Ltd provided a verbal update on the future programme of topics.

8 Agenda item – Future Meeting and AOB

- 8.1 The Chair, HS2 Ltd welcomed any thoughts on when the next meeting should be held and if subgroup members are happy to continue to adopt the hybrid meeting format for the next meeting. Manchester City Council suggested that a May meeting would be useful. Cheshire East advised that they would be happy to host the next meeting at Crewe.

Action 5: organise a meeting in May or early June.

Action 6: contact Cheshire East in relation to hosting the next hybrid meeting in Crewe.