

Meeting minutes

Phase 2b Planning Forum – Highways Subgroup

Minutes #1 – June 2023

Meeting location 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:	HSR Policy Lead, Department for Transport
Coordinator:	Technical Engagement Manager HS2 Ltd
Attendees	
Organisation	
	Cheshire East Council
	Cheshire West and Chester Council
	Cumbria County 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 – Previous Meeting Minutes

- 2.1 Technical Engagement Manager, HS2 advised that the previous meeting minutes have been circulated. It was agreed that the minutes are signed off as complete.

3 Agenda item – Action Log

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

4 Agenda item – Project Update

- 4.1 HSR Policy Lead, Department for Transport, gave an update on the Phase 2B Crewe – Manchester Bill.

5 Agenda item – Street Works

- 5.1 Senior Traffic Manager, HS2 Ltd provided a refresher on some of the aspects around the consenting process, with a focus on the mechanism for transmitting requests to Highways Authorities.

Questions and discussion

Transport for Greater Manchester queried what the 42 day technical approval period is for and why it is different from the 28 day period.

Senior Traffic Manager, HS2 advised how the 42 day technical approval period is for certain strategic roads within London, and they will check if there are equivalent provisions for strategic roads on Phase 2b.

Transport for Greater Manchester queried the forward plan that contractors use for more impacted works and asked if there is a notification period within that plan that is given to local highway authorities.

Senior Traffic Manager, HS2 explained how engagement happens through the subgroup meetings, monthly meetings as well as there being a more formal engagement process, with formal submission via Street Manager.

Trafford Council asked if HS2 could define what they mean by ‘temporary’ works.

Senior Traffic Manager, HS2 explained how ‘temporary’ is anything that is not part of the permanent role and not a permanent facility.

Trafford Council queried when the Phase 2b Traffic Liaison Group will be formed.

Senior Traffic Manager, HS2 advised that there is no defined date as of yet however, on other phases the Traffic Liaison Group started when the Ground Investigations works started. It was confirmed that TLGs generally meet on a monthly basis. Additional TLG sub groups may also be established which may meet more frequently.

Manchester City Council queried how HS2 deal with new contractors who come on board, and how HS2 brief them on the processes and procedures.

Senior Traffic Manager, HS2 advised how Street Manager is now set up, and a briefing document is given prior to giving access to Street Manager. HS2 also explained how

they have an assurance and performance monitor in place, so they have better visibility about what is happening.

HS2 Ltd confirmed that the route wide traffic management plans (RWTMP) will be consulted through the P2b sub group. Local traffic management plans (LTMP's) and then the site specific measures in the form of schedule 4 applications by HS2's contractors will be consulted through the Local Traffic Liaison Groups. Local Highways Authority requested the Street Manager Guidance Note.

The Chair, HS2 queried if temporary speed limits are a bit different to the street works information that was presented.

Senior Traffic Manager, HS2 agreed and explained how HS2 has no power in the Act to deal with temporary speed limits and they would need to go through a temporary traffic order process to get restrictions imposed, which will be an application made to the Highway Authority.

HS2 Ltd confirmed that they have a Traffic GIS Web Map for all the coordination of their contractors and P2b should be the same.

Action 2: HS2 to check whether Phase 2b have equivalent 42 day technical approval provisions for strategic roads.

Action 3: HS2 to share the Street Manager Guidance Note.

Action 4: HS2 to provide members with clarification on early acknowledgement and engagement when sharing of any changes related to Phase 2b Street Works.

6 Agenda item – Departures

6.1 The Chair, HS2 Ltd provided the subgroup with an introduction to Highways Departures.

Questions and discussion

Trafford Council queried HS2 not being responsible for the structure after build and asked where HS2 oversee the organisation.

The Chair, HS2 explained how HS2 are responsible for everything both and during construction and are also responsible for maintenance for the first 12 months after completion, so HS2 have the statutory responsibility as nominated Undertaker under the Act.

Cheshire East Council asked HS2 to explain what the relationship is between road safety audits and departures.

The Chair HS2 explained how if there's a design that incorporates departures, these will need to be accepted in their own right, but the design will also go through the road safety audit process.

Cheshire West and Chester queried who undertakes the safety audit.

The Chair, HS2 explained that there is a HS2 guidance note on road safety audits, and advised how the safety audit could be carried out by an independent organisation or a separate team.

HS2 Ltd explained that the highway authority would ideally also agree to any departures via a HW0 form but cannot require it to do this. Construction stage departures may also require a new or revised consent/approval. Departure decisions will include a justification, consider all factors and highway authorities would be able to accept, accept with comments or reject departures via the consents/approvals process if not agreed in advance.

Action 5: HS2 to confirm if the HS2 departure process follows that of National Highways.

Action 6: HS2 to provide clarification on what standards would be adopted during the departure process, namely, DMRB and MCHW.

Action 7: HS2 to provide clarification on construction compliance certificate and how Contract Design elements of work are dealt with.

Action 8: HS2 to provide clarification on when the defect period starts.

7 Agenda item – Future Programme of Topics

- 7.1 Senior Traffic Manager, HS2 Ltd provided an update on the future programme of topics. Cheshire West and Chester added that they would like to go into a bit more detail on the consents process.

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. Cheshire East advised that they are still happy to host the next meeting at Crewe.

Action 9: organise a meeting in September.

Action 10: cover the consents process in the next meeting.