

Highways England is inviting feedback on its planned improvements to the junction of the A19 and A184, known as Testos Junction Improvement (the Project). Highways England will be submitting an application to the Planning Inspectorate to gain the necessary powers to construct and maintain the Project.

As part of the pre-application process, consultation has already taken place with the local community in line with the first statement of community consultation (SOCC) published on 13th October 2014.

The purpose of this document, the second SOCC for the Project, is to set out how Highways England will further 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 Highways England is required to make an application for development consent to gain permission to construct the Project. We intend to make our application by June 2017. The application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate who 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 by granting a Development Consent Order (DCO).

Under the Act, Highways England is required to consult on its proposals before submitting an application for development consent. Pre-application consultation is an important opportunity to provide feedback on the scheme, and as part of the examination process the Planning Inspectorate will consider whether our consultation has been adequate. Highways England has prepared this second SOCC in accordance with Section 47 of the Act. We have consulted South Tyneside Council and Sunderland City Council as the Project is within their areas, along with neighbouring Gateshead Council, about our plans to consult the local community and have taken their comments into account.

Comments made during the consultation period will be recorded and considered by Highways England when developing the proposals for the Project further. Consultation with people living in the vicinity of a proposed development site is an important aspect of any NSIP and will help 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

Highways England is proposing to improve the Testos junction by raising the A19 on a flyover and building new slip roads to connect it to the A184 via the Testos roundabout. Access to the next junction to the south at Downhill Lane will be provided using two parallel link roads connecting to the new south-facing slip roads of Testos junction. The existing bridleway bridge north of Testos will be removed and new routes through the junction will be provided for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. The scheme length is approximately 2km.

In line with Highways England's Strategic Outcomes, the aims of the Project are to:

- Support economic growth;
- Provide a safe and serviceable network;
- Provide a more free-flowing network;
- Improve the environment; and
- Provide an accessible and integrated network.

The Project supports these aims by improving traffic flows and reducing queues. This will improve the living environment for the local community and transport users will benefit from improved journey times, road quality and safety. This will support the overall competitiveness and productivity of the local, regional and national economy through time savings and improved reliability for business users.

The Project forms part of a wider strategy to upgrade the A19 through the east of Tyneside which includes the A19 Coast Road Improvement and A19 Downhill Lane Junction Improvement. These improvements, along with the A19 Testos Junction Improvement, will support development of the International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) to the north of the Nissan plant, regeneration at the Port of Tyne, Newcastle Airport and further development at Cobalt Business Park, and complement other recent improvements to the local network such as the second Tyne crossing.

Consultation

A consultation exercise was held in spring 2009 on three options. The consultation found an overall preference for the 'on-line' option, i.e. with the A19 maintained on its existing route, but slightly to the west of the existing roundabout. The outcome from this initial consultation was validated with key stakeholders in spring 2014. The process culminated in a preferred route announcement by the Secretary of State for Transport in June 2014.

Following the preferred route announcement, the design was developed further and consultation in accordance with the Act took place with stakeholders and the local community in October/ November 2014. Following this consultation (2014), Highways England undertook a review to identify the feasibility of combining the Testos Junction Improvement with the Downhill Lane Junction Improvement. As a result the DCO application for Testos was deferred while we considered options for a combined scheme. The outcome of the review indicated that the best approach was for the

design and construction of the two projects to be carried out together by one team, but with separate DCO applications made for each junction improvement.

We are now proposing to complete the Testos DCO application with a target submission date of June 2017. Before we can submit our application, we wish to consult further on the proposals to provide an update to the 2014 consultation and hear any further views people may have on the Project.

We are therefore holding a five week public consultation, starting on **Monday 30th January 2017** and ending on **Monday 6th March 2017**. Our consultation materials will provide information on the proposed layout, junction and access arrangements and the proposed facilities for Non-Motorised Users (NMUs), including any changes since the preferred route announcement, and the last consultation in 2014, and the reasons for these changes. We will also make available for review and comment the draft DCO, draft land and works plans, which outline the required extent of land-take for the scheme, and the updated Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report.

Environmental Impact Assessment

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, our Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report will form part of the consultation material. The updated PEI Report presents environmental information that we have collected, and indicates the mitigation measures that we expect to implement in order to minimise any negative effects.

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

How we will consult

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 include:

- The **distribution of our consultation flyer**, explaining where information about the project can be found, to homes and businesses in the area, including Boldon Colliery, Redhill, Cleadon East and West Boldon, Fellgate and Hedworth, Castletown, Washington North and Townend Farm;
- The **distribution of our consultation brochure** to all section 42 consultees; and
- The **publication of our consultation materials**; including the consultation brochure a scheme layout plan, the preliminary environmental information in the form of our updated PEI Report, preliminary DCO plans and documents and this SOCC on our Project webpage: www.highways.gov.uk/a19-testos-downhill-lane.
- The **consultation materials** will be available to view between Monday 30th January and Monday 6th March 2017 at the following community facilities:
 - **The Word Library**, The Word, 45 Market Place, South Shields, NE33 1DX. Opening times Monday to Thursday 0900 to 1900hrs; Friday 0900 to 1700hrs; Saturday and Sunday 1000 to 1600hrs. Tel: 0191 427 1818
 - **East Boldon Library**, Boker Lane, East Boldon, NE36 0RY. Opening times: Monday and Friday 0930 to 1230 and 1330 to 1700hrs; Tuesday and Thursday 0930 to 1230 and 1330 to 1900hrs. Tel: 0191 424 7853
 - **Library at Hebburn Central**, Glen Street, Hebburn, NE31 1AB. Opening times: Monday to Thursday 0930 to 1900hrs; Friday 0930 to 1700hrs; Saturday 1000 to 1600hrs. Tel: 0191 424 7831
 - **Bunny Hill Customer Service Centre**, Hylton Lane, Sunderland, SR5 4BW. Opening times: Monday to Friday 0930 to 1700hrs. Tel: 0191 520 5555
 - **Washington Library**, Independence Square, Washington, NE38 7RZ. Opening times: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 0930 to 1700hrs; Wednesday 0930 to 1900hrs; Saturday 1000 to 1600hrs. Tel 0191 561 3441
 - **Jarrow Library**, Cambrian Street, Jarrow, NE32 3QN. Opening times: Monday 0930 to 1700hrs; Tuesday and Thursday 0930 to 1900hrs; Friday 0930 to 1700hrs; Saturday 1200 to 1600hrs. Tel: 0191 489 7786
 - **Boldon Village Hall**, Asda Complex/North Rd, Boldon Colliery, NE35 9AR. Opening times: Monday to Friday 0900 to 1200hrs. Tel 0191 536 3841
 - **The Quadrus Centre**, Woodstock Way, Boldon Business Park, Boldon Colliery, Tyne and Wear, NE35 9PF. Opening times: Monday to Friday 0830 to 17:00hrs. Tel 0191 519 7202
 - **Hedworthfield Community Centre**, Cornhill, Jarrow NE32 4QD. Opening times: Monday to Friday 0900 to 2200hrs; Saturday 0900 to 1700hrs; Sunday 1000 to 1400hrs. Tel 0191 519 6700.
- The consultation materials will also be available to view at Highways England, Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT. Viewing times: Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm. Tel: 0300 470 4418.

All of the consultation materials will be available to view free of charge on our website or at the facilities listed above. Copies of the consultation materials may be requested from Highways England using the email address, postal address or telephone number listed below.

Following the end of the consultation period we will review views and comments received. A consultation report will be submitted with the DCO application which will outline all the consultation undertaken on the Project and how people's views and comments were taken into consideration in developing the Project. The Planning Inspectorate will decide whether our application meets the required standards to

proceed to examination, and as part of this will determine whether our pre-application consultation has been adequate.

Making your comments

Comments on our proposals can be made by:

- Responding to the questions within the consultation brochure, which will also be available to complete online on the Project webpage at <http://www.highways.gov.uk/a19-testos-downhill-lane>. 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 a19testosjunctionimp@highwaysengland.co.uk.
- Writing to us at A19 Testos Junction Improvement Project Team, Highways England, 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 0300 470 2313.

The deadline for all responses is **Monday 6th March 2017**.