

A5036

Port of Liverpool access

Summary of the
public consultation



Introduction

The A5036 Port of Liverpool access scheme is part of our continued programme of investment in the country's motorways and major A-roads.

The Port of Liverpool is the busiest sea-port in the North West and it's expanding. It's the sixth largest port in the UK in terms of the total weight of goods that go in and out of it. It's also home to Liverpool2, a new deep-water container terminal built following a £300m investment by Peel Ports.

It is expected that Liverpool2 will double the port's existing capacity and make it one of the country's best equipped and connected terminals. The port currently handles about 800,000 shipping containers a year. This is expected to increase to 2.5 million by 2030 following the opening of Liverpool2 in November 2016.

With a big increase in the amount of goods coming into and out of the port it's critical that the road network enables them to be transported efficiently.

Access to the port from the motorway network is via the existing A5036 which links the port with the Switch Island interchange of the M57 and M58 which then links to the M62 and M6. The road already suffers from a high level of congestion, unreliable journeys and has a high accident rate. The situation is predicted to get worse with future developments planned for the area meaning even more traffic.

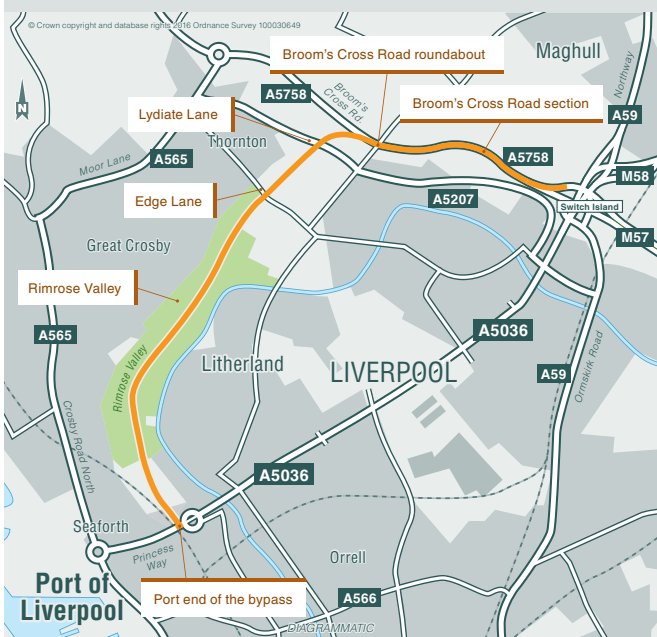
The main objective of the scheme is to improve the traffic conditions on the main link between the Port of Liverpool and the motorway network to help economic growth.

We shared two options at a public consultation in early 2017 and gathered people's feedback to help decide which option is best.

Option A – upgrading the existing A5036 road with junction improvements at Hawthorne Road, Netherton Way and Copy Lane. At the Hawthorne Road and Copy Lane junctions, additional capacity will be provided by widening the existing A5036 to allow three lanes through the junction in both directions. At the Netherton Way junction, additional capacity will be provided with the construction of a new signalised roundabout with through lanes for the A5036.



Option B – a new dual carriageway bypass through the Rimrose Valley connecting Princess Way to Broom's Cross Road. A new signalised roundabout will be provided at the junction between Broom's Cross Road, Brickwall Lane and the new bypass. Broom's Cross Road will be upgraded to dual carriageway from this point to the junction with Switch Island. Edge Lane and Lydiate Lane will be diverted onto new bridges over the new bypass.



Public consultation

The consultation ran for six weeks from 16 January to 27 February 2017. Information about the proposed options and a feedback questionnaire were available on our website (www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/a5036-port-of-liverpool-access). They were also available at deposit points close to the scheme and were sent to stakeholders and residents affected by the scheme.

The consultation was advertised in the local press and through leaflet drops. A press release describing the scheme, announcing the consultation and providing details of the information available was issued.

During the consultation period we held six public exhibition events for local residents, businesses

and stakeholders where we provided more information about the two proposals. Members of the project team were available to explain the scheme.

The exhibitions were attended by over 700 people.

Responses to the consultation were accepted through a number of channels:

- Using the online questionnaire at www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/a5036-port-of-liverpool-access
- At public consultation events by completing a paper copy of the questionnaire
- By post using the freepost address printed on the paper copy of the questionnaire
- By email to the dedicated scheme email address: A5036portofliverpool@highwaysengland.co.uk

In total 2229 responses were received.

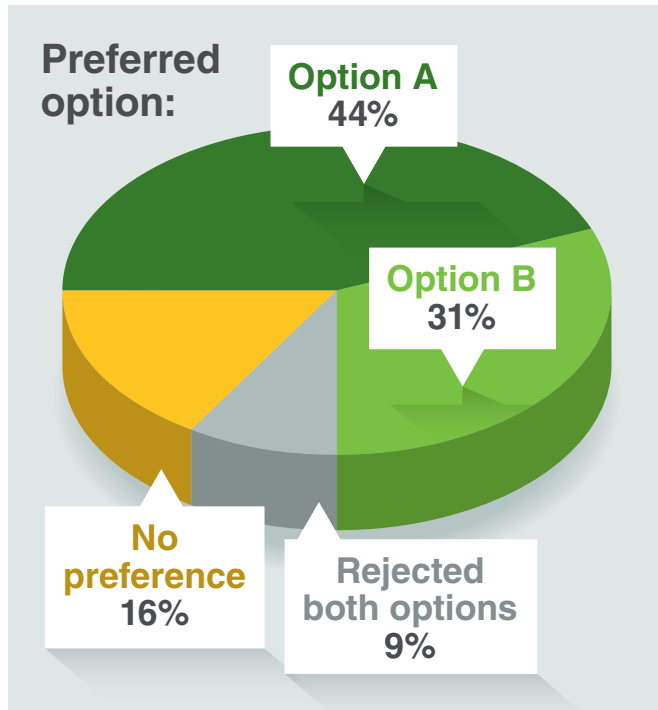
Consultation findings

Results show that there is strong support to address the issues of congestion on the existing A5036 with 72% of questionnaire respondents agreeing that something must be done. A further 69% agreed that something must also be done to improve safety.

Agreement on which option best addresses these issues is mixed with 44% supporting option A, 31% supporting option B and a further 25% either rejecting both options or indicating no preference.

Overall 25% of all questionnaires had been completed by people who had attended a public consultation event. Only 9% of online questionnaires had been completed by people who had attended an event.

Almost three quarters of respondents lived on or near the existing A5036 with 88% indicating that they travelled on it as a car driver. A further third of respondents indicated that they regularly walked along the route.



The main reasons given for these preferences were:

Option A

- Need to preserve greenbelt land of Rimrose Valley
- Negative impact on wildlife and natural habitats
- Need to retain recreational facilities

Option B

- Positive impact on congestion
- Positive impact on air quality on existing A5036
- Concerns about traffic on or near A5036

No preference/reject both options

Most respondents indicated they did not like either of the options and would rather see another option chosen. The most commonly mentioned alternatives were:

- Make better use of the rail network as opposed to building new roads
- Build a new road tunnel

People were asked to identify things that were most important to them in terms of influencing the decision of a preferred option. The top three issues identified were:

- Air quality
- Protecting the environment
- Noise

Scheme cost was notably less important to respondents.

Next steps

The results of the consultation have been considered in the selection of the preferred option along with other factors such as meeting the scheme's objectives, safety and value for money. The full consultation report is available on our website (see previous page) or alternatively call **0300 123 5000** to request a printed copy.

Additionally the Scheme Assessment Report, containing further technical information about the scheme, is also available upon request.

The announcement of the preferred option will be made in September 2017.