

# A57 Link Roads project

## Statement of Community Consultation

November 2020

We operate, maintain and improve England's motorways and major A-roads. The A57 Link Roads project (previously known as the Trans-Pennine Upgrade) is a critical part of our ongoing investment and will improve journeys between the Manchester and Sheffield city regions which will bring benefits to the areas.

We are publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) to outline our approach to consulting with the local community for the above scheme. It provides details about how you (the local community) can take part and how feedback will be used to influence our proposed design.

To make sure we approach our consultation in the very best way for the local community, we've consulted on this document with Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, High Peak Borough Council and the Peak District National Park Authority.

This document also gives you the background to the scheme and how our application to build it will progress.

Under the Planning Act 2008, we are required to make an application to the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build this scheme. The Planning Inspectorate will examine our application and the Secretary of State will decide on whether the scheme should go ahead based on a recommendation made by the Planning Inspectorate. We anticipate that our DCO application for the scheme will be submitted in spring 2021. We are publishing this statement under section 47 (duty to consult local community) of that Act.

**The best time for you to have your say to inform our final design for this scheme is now by taking part in this consultation.**

You can find more information about the Planning Inspectorate and the Planning Act 2008 on their National Infrastructure Planning website: <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> or by calling the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000.

### **Impact of COVID-19**

With the situation around COVID-19 constantly developing and changing, we're not holding the face-to-face events we normally would.

Instead, we're providing a range of alternative ways for you to speak to the project team, ask questions and ultimately make an informed response to the public consultation.

Our approach reflects a number of factors of particular relevance both to COVID-19 and the project:

- The considerable elderly population in the consultation area, requiring a mix of online and offline engagement options
- People who do not have access to cars and who therefore rely on public transport, cycling or walking
- People who are unable, or choose not, to leave the house due to the pandemic

- Key workers, and those who are not able to work from home during the pandemic
- People who do not have access to the internet or are less internet literate
- People who have lower literacy levels, or for whom English is not their first language
- People who require the consultation materials in an alternative format

The following mitigation efforts have been prepared to reduce these concerns, as far as possible:

- Holding a six-week consultation period, rather than the minimum 28 days required
- Posting the consultation brochure and response form to a wide area to ensure that local residents who don't have access to the web page receive a copy
- Encouraging people to go online to view all our material
- Replacing face-to-face events with online webinars featuring question and answer sessions and also telephone events where people can speak to a member of the project team, to support people without internet/computer literacy
- A flythrough video showing the proposed scheme and promoting the consultation
- Sending people free hard copies of the consultation brochure and response form on request
- Offering alternative language and format versions of the consultation materials on request
- Frequently Asked Questions available online and sent out with the consultation materials
- Engaging with the departments who deal with equalities matters at Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council and High Peak Borough Council to inform the consultation approach

In the unlikely event that COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings are lifted in time, we will try to hold a series of small outdoor events in the area using our engagement van. These would be publicised locally at the time.

The table on page 7 shows the full approach and methods we will use to promote our public consultation and gather feedback on the scheme.

While this approach differs from the way we would usually consult, it follows best practice.

### **The scheme**

We've developed a project to improve journeys between Manchester and Sheffield, as this route currently suffers from heavy congestion which creates unreliable journeys. This restricts potential economic growth, as the delivery of goods to businesses is often delayed and the route is not ideal for commuters, which limits employment opportunities. Much of this heavy traffic travels along local roads, which disrupts the lives of communities, and makes it difficult and potentially unsafe for pedestrians to cross the roads. These issues will only get worse with time if significant improvements aren't made.

In 2017, after a wide consultation about a number of different options, we announced a package of Trans-Pennine Upgrade work, to improve the existing route connecting the M67 at Mottram in Longdendale to the M1, north of Sheffield. We held another consultation on the proposed package of upgrades in 2018, and have since split the work into two projects which are being delivered separately:

- Upgrades to Westwood roundabout near Sheffield; packaged with technology improvements along the A628, A616 and A61, including electronic signs and improved closure gates
- Creation of two new link roads at the western end of the A57/A628 route, to provide a bypass around Mottram in Longdendale

We started construction on the Westwood roundabout and technology improvements in March 2020.

This consultation will focus on changes to the A57 Link Roads scheme since the last public consultation in 2018:

- Improvements to the design
- Extra information we now have about anticipated environmental impacts

We are carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment for the scheme and we're publishing a Preliminary Environmental Information Report which will be made available online as part of the consultation material to assist well-informed responses to the consultation. There will also be specific questions referring to it in the feedback form.

The report will provide information about the potential environmental effects of the scheme, including updates on air quality and noise and the measures proposed to reduce those effects. Possible mitigation measures include replacement planting, archaeological works, mammal crossings, landform design and water treatment measures.

Additional information about the scheme, including detailed maps/plans and information about associated benefits, will be included in our public consultation brochure and online on the project web page.

We will also make these documents available at the deposit points specified in the table on page 10. We'll be monitoring the COVID-19 situation as it evolves, and if we are unable to store materials in deposit points, we can provide a printed copy of the consultation brochure and response form free of charge. We can also provide our other consultation documents on a USB or DVD for free.

If you require paper copies of our other consultation materials, there will be a charge of up to £115 plus postage and packaging.

You can request copies of our materials by emailing us or ringing our Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000.

### **Consulting the community - previous consultation**

We have already carried out two rounds of consultation in the vicinity of the scheme, where we sought your views on:

- Our proposed options for the wider Trans-Pennine Upgrade project in March 2017
- The Preferred Route of the Link Roads, technology improvements and a proposal for Westwood Roundabout in February 2018

In 2017, consultees were asked for their views on the two options (A and B) for the Mottram Moor and A57 Link Roads and two options for the dualling of the A61, an earlier proposal to create two sections of climbing lanes and a package of safety and technology measures.

The respondents showed support for Option A of the Link Roads and for safety measures in general, but with mixed views on specific approaches. There were also mixed views on the climbing lanes and half of respondents showed no preference on the A61 dualling at all.

We announced our preferred route in Autumn 2017, taking Option A of the Links Roads and the Safety and Technology measures forward. At this time, we confirmed we would not be progressing either option for improving the A61.

In 2018, consultees were asked for their views on:

- The Preferred Route Option for the A57 Link Roads project
- Their level of support for the Link Roads
- Their agreement with proposed community and environmental improvements
- Suggested uses for the land above the Mottram underpass
- Their level of support for improved facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders
- Their level of agreement with improved safety measures
- Whether proposals for Westwood roundabout will reduce delays.

Key issues that were raised during the consultation included:

- Air quality, noise and light pollution
- Landscape, planting and visual intrusion
- Footpaths, cycle paths and bridleways
- Ground settlement
- De-trunking, parking and speed limits on the old A57 road

Following the consultation in 2018, we've improved our designs taking these issues into account and we also have more information about key environmental impacts including air quality, noise and traffic. We'd like your views on these changes, before we submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate.

More details, including the results of previous consultation and how we decided to progress our design are included in the *Public Consultation Report 2017, Preferred Route Announcement leaflet and Public Consultation Report 2018*, available to

download from the project web page at [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A57-Upgrade](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A57-Upgrade). Depending on the situation with Coronavirus at the time, these documents will also be available to view for the duration of the consultation period at local deposit locations. If we are unable to store hard copies of our materials in deposit points, we can post copies of our materials to people on request.

### **This consultation - why and when**

It is important to us that our consultation will:

- Provide the opportunity for the community to give feedback on the latest design of the project
- Encourage the community to help shape our proposals to maximise local benefits and minimise any impacts
- Help local people understand the potential nature and local impact of our proposals
- Enable potential mitigation measures to be considered and, if appropriate, incorporated into the scheme design before an application is submitted
- Identify ways in which our proposals, without significant costs, support wider strategic or local objectives

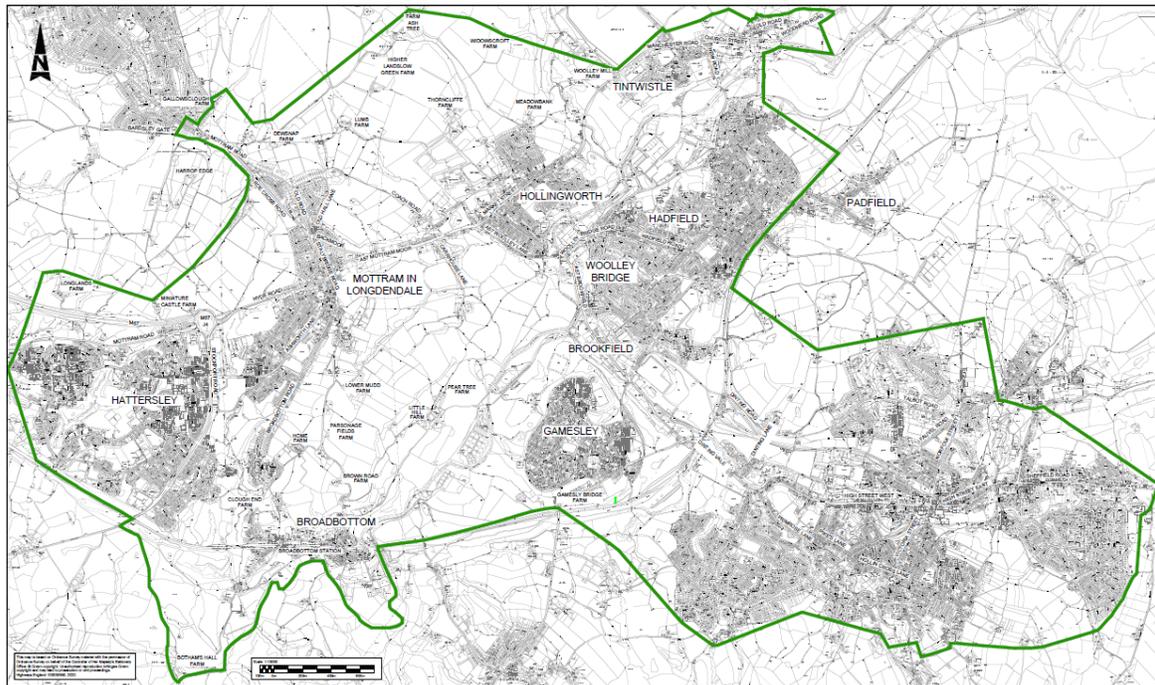
Your comments will help us achieve these objectives. We will listen to and consider everyone's views before we submit our DCO application. This process is described below in the Next Steps section.

The consultation will run from **5 November to 17 December 2020**. During the consultation period, we will be consulting on the following particular elements of the scheme:

- Our environmental assessment and our measures to minimise impacts on air quality and noise
- Removing the Roe Cross Road link, junction and roundabout from the scheme
- A new location and design for the Mottram Underpass
- Replacing the proposed roundabout at Mottram Moor Junction, with a signal-controlled junction
- Reducing the length of our River Etherow crossing
- A new design for the Woolley Bridge junction and location of the link road
- New provisions for cyclists and pedestrians, including additional crossings at the proposed Mottram Moor junction and connections to the former route
- A new location for the Carrhouse Lane underpass
- Important natural, or man-made features of the landscape surrounding the scheme

Working with Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, High Peak Borough Council and the Peak District National Park Authority, we have developed a consultation target area for the distribution of our consultation materials. This is based on who we think will be affected by our proposed design. We'll let people living/working in this area know about our consultation by posting information at the start of our consultation period.

Our consultation area is shown below.



### Who can take part?

Anyone who is interested in this scheme is welcome to take part. We welcome all views and will take them into account before we submit our final design.

### How will we consult?

We will use the following methods to promote our public consultation:

Method	Detail
Consultation brochure	<p>The consultation brochure contains details of the scheme, focusing particularly on changes and new information since the 2018 consultation. It will also include instructions for joining the online webinars and telephone events. We will deliver this together with a feedback form to all homes and businesses within the consultation zone shown above.</p> <p>We will also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• send it electronically to key stakeholders,</li> <li>• make it available free of charge to anybody who requests a copy</li> <li>• host it on our project web page</li> </ul>

Method	Detail
	<p>If the situation with COVID-19 at the time, allows, we will make it available at local deposit locations. If we are unable to store hard copies of our materials in deposit points, we will post copies of our materials to people on request.</p> <p>Accessible versions and different languages will be available on request.</p>
Public telephone events	<p>In place of face-to-face engagement at events, the project team will be available to talk about the scheme and answer questions at set times through telephone events. The details of these events will be made available on the project web page and in the brochure.</p>
Public online webinars	<p>In place of face-to-face engagement at events, we will also be hosting a series of online webinars, delivering a presentation on our proposals and holding a live question and answer session. Details will also be made available on the project web page and in the brochure.</p>
Project web page	<p>A full summary of the scheme, this SoCC, the consultation brochure, online response form, flythrough video, Preliminary Environmental Information Report and non-technical summary, and a plan showing the extent of the scheme (red line boundary) will be available at:  <a href="http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A57-Upgrade">www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A57-Upgrade</a></p> <p>The consultation reports from previous consultations will also be available.</p> <p>We will continue to monitor the situation with COVID-19 as it evolves and explore the feasibility of making these documents available at local deposit points.</p>
Local Authority and MP briefings	<p>We will continue to hold regular meetings with our established Local Authority forum. We will also hold online briefings for local councilors and MPs before the consultation begins, delivering a presentation on our proposals and answering questions via a live question and answer session.</p>
Stakeholder briefings	<p>We will be holding a dedicated webinar for our other key stakeholders, delivering a</p>

Method	Detail
	presentation on our proposals and answering questions via a live question and answer session. The consultation materials will be sent to stakeholders in advance of this event.
Statutory notices	Statutory notices to publicise the proposed DCO application and the SoCC will be issued:  DCO application - once in a national newspaper and the London Gazette and also in two local circulating newspaper(s).  SoCC - in one local circulating newspaper.
Press releases	Press releases detailing the consultation period and how the community and road users can get involved will also be issued.
Posters	Posters will be displayed in the local area surrounding the scheme, promoting the consultation and how to participate.
Social media	The public consultation will also be advertised on @HighwaysNWest and on Facebook.

In the case of circumstances where an event needs to be cancelled, it may be substituted with similar event(s). This will be advertised locally and via the project web page.

### How to respond to the consultation:

A consultation response form will be available to help you provide comments on the scheme design. All consultation responses must be made in writing by:

- Completing the online response form at [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A57-Upgrade](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A57-Upgrade)
- Complete a paper copy of the consultation response form and return it using the freepost address - Freepost A57 TRANS-PENNINE UPGRADE MAILBOX

Alternatively, you can email [Trans\\_Pennine\\_Scheme@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:Trans_Pennine_Scheme@highwaysengland.co.uk) or write to us on the freepost address above.

All responses must be received by the end of **17 December 2020**.

### Information available online and details of local display/deposit locations:

The documents and content listed below will be made available for your information to help inform your consultation response.

- Public consultation brochure and response form

- Scheme/Route map showing the full area and boundaries of the scheme
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report & Non-technical summary
- Previous public consultation reports and/or public consultation summary documents
- Development Consent Order leaflet, explaining the planning process in more detail
- Section 48 Notice, Planning Act 2008
- The flythrough video

The deposit points below are open at the time of publishing this document. However, if COVID-19 restrictions are increased and deposit locations not open, you can still view all of our materials on our project webpage at [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A57-Upgrade](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A57-Upgrade)

We can supply individual paper copies of the consultation brochure and response form free of charge. We can also provide our other consultation documents on a USB or DVD for free. However there will be a charge for paper copies of other materials, of up to £115 plus P&P.

You can request copies of our materials by emailing us or ringing our Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000.

<b>Deposit/display location</b>	<b>Opening times</b>
Mottram Post Office, 1 Mottram Moor, Mottram in Longendale, SK14 6LA	Monday to Thursday 09:00-17.30 Friday 09:00-17:00 Saturday 09:00-12:30 Sunday Closed
Hollingworth Post Office, 33 Market St, Hollingworth SK14 8NE	Monday to Friday 05:30-20:00 Saturday and Sunday 08:30-20:00
Bradbury Community House, Market Street, Glossop, SK13 8AR	Monday to Friday 09:00-17:00
Broadbottom Post Office, 50-52 Lower Market Street, Broadbottom SK14 6AA	Monday 09:00-17:30 Tuesday 09:00-13:00 Wednesday 09:00-17:30 Thursday 09:00-17:30 Friday 09:00-17:30 Saturday 09:00-12:30 Sunday Closed

### **Next steps**

We will record and carefully consider all responses received during the consultation. We will take them into account in finalising our application before we submit it to the Planning Inspectorate.

We will explain our consideration of the consultation responses in a Consultation Report. This will include a description of how our application was informed by the responses received, and outline any changes made as a result of consultation. The Consultation Report forms part of our application to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination. This must include their determination of whether our consultation has complied with the contents of this SoCC.

For more information visit our project web page where you can also sign up for email alerts whenever the web page is updated. If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact us by calling 0300 123 5000 or emailing [Trans\\_Pennine\\_Scheme@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:Trans_Pennine_Scheme@highwaysengland.co.uk).

## Your data, your rights

On 25 May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) became law. The law requires Highways England to explain to you – consultees, stakeholders and customers – how your personal data will be used and stored.

Highways England adheres to the government's consultation principles, the Planning Act 2008 and the Highways Act 1980 as required, and may collect personal data to help shape development of highways schemes.

Personal data collected by the project team will be processed and retained by

Highways England and its appointed contractors until the scheme is complete. In some instances consultation responses may also be sent to the Planning Inspectorate.

### Under the GDPR regulations you have the following rights:

- Right of access to the data (Subject Access Request)
- Right for the rectification of errors
- Right to erasure of personal data – this is not an absolute right under the legislation
- Right to restrict processing or to object to processing

### ■ Right to data portability

If, at any point, Highways England plans to process the personal data we hold for a purpose other than that for which it was originally collected, we will tell you what that other purpose is. We will do this prior to any further processing taking place and we will include any relevant additional information, including your right to object to that further processing.

**You have the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority, the Information Commissioners Office.**



If you'd like more information about how we manage data, or a copy of our privacy notice, please contact: [DataProtectionAdvice@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:DataProtectionAdvice@highwaysengland.co.uk)

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

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This document is also available on our website at [www.highwaysengland.co.uk](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk)

For an accessible version of this publication please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

If you have any enquiries about this publication email [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk) or call **0300 123 5000\***. Please quote the Highways England publications code **PRPR141/20**.

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\*Calls to 03 numbers cost no more than a national rate call to an 01 or 02 number and must count towards any inclusive minutes in the same way as 01 and 02 calls.

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