

# M27 Southampton Junctions improvement scheme

Preferred scheme announcement



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## Investing in your roads

At Highways England we believe in a connected country and our network makes these connections happen. We strive to improve our major roads and motorways – engineering the future to keep people moving today and moving better tomorrow. We want to make sure all our major roads are more dependable, durable and most importantly are safe.

That's why we're delivering £15 billion of investment on our network – the largest investment in a generation.

## Introduction

The M27 Southampton Junctions scheme is a package of proposals to improve traffic flow and conditions for walking and cycling at M27 junction 8 and Windhover Roundabout. It is included in the Government's 2015-2020 Road Investment Strategy.

The Scheme aims to reduce congestion around junction 8 and Windhover Roundabout, improving journey time reliability and enhancing the surrounding environment. It also aims to provide a better connected, safe and serviceable network for the people in the area, supporting economic growth and helping to improve the local and regional economy.

Highways England has been working in partnership with Southampton City Council and Hampshire County Council to develop the scheme.

This leaflet outlines the scheme, feedback from the autumn 2017 public consultation, and further work which has been undertaken.

## Why is a scheme needed?

Safety is a concern across the scheme with 43 recorded incidents occurring at M27 junction 8 between 2011 and 2015. In addition, the M27 junction 8 was in the top 50 sites for casualties on the strategic road network from counts taken between 2009 and 2011.

Peak time congestion at Windhover Roundabout is creating problems for the local traffic. This causes regular delays and is linked to the number of accidents in the area. If traffic congestion is not addressed, planned and aspirational local housing and employment growth will be affected and air quality will get worse.

There is also poor connectivity and lack of safe shared facilities for pedestrians and cyclists around Windhover Roundabout and M27 junction 8 from Hamble Lane to Hedge End.



## Scheme objectives

**Supporting economic growth** – contributing to sustainable economic growth by supporting employment and local residential development opportunities. The scheme aims to improve connectivity and reduce journey times around M27 junction 8 and Windhover Roundabout.

**Provide a safe and serviceable network** – improving the safety record at M27 junction 8 and Windhover Roundabout (60 year look ahead assessment period).

**Provide a more free-flowing and reliable network** – reducing congestion around the M27 Junction 8 and Windhover Roundabout and improve journey time reliability and connectivity between east and west of the M27 junction 8 – Windhover Roundabout.

**Provide a safe, accessible and integrated network** – delivering capacity enhancements to the M27 junction 8 and Windhover Roundabout, whilst supporting the safe, accessible use of active travel modes for pedestrians and cyclists.

**Provide an improved environment** – seeking to prevent the worsening of air quality by reducing congestion and journey times along the M27 junction 8 and Windhover Roundabout and aiming to mitigate noise impact.

## The scheme taken to non-statutory public consultation and further work

Working in partnership with Southampton City Council and Hampshire County Council, Highways England developed a scheme which comprised a series of improvements to the A3024 corridor from the M27 junction 8 to Northam Road Rail Bridge. Those improvements formed a single option which was put forward for public consultation.

The public consultation was held from 19 September 2017 until 31 October 2017 and the purpose was to gather feedback on our proposals. Information was presented on a range of aspects of the proposed scheme including highway improvements, proposals for pedestrians and cyclists, environmental impacts, economic assessments and the next steps of the project.

A total of 382 responses to the consultation were received. Respondents were largely supportive of the scheme and the need for improvements

within the area covered by the proposed scheme, with particular support for improvements at the M27 junction 8 and Windhover Roundabout. The most common issues raised in relation to these junctions were:

- Congestion – particularly at Windhover Roundabout
- Noise – particularly Windhover Roundabout
- The need for improved pedestrian and cycle facilities to enhance safety and accessibility

Highways England has carefully considered the responses to the consultation and further work has been undertaken to establish the solution that provides best value for money. This has led to the scheme being reassessed and developed in a different way in conjunction with Southampton City Council.





**Windhover Roundabout**





**M27 Junction 8**



## The preferred scheme

Highways England will continue to progress the scheme at the M27 junction 8 and Windhover Roundabout, while Southampton City Council will now deliver improvements at junctions along the A3024 corridor.

**The proposals at M27 junction 8** include widening of the carriageway on the slip roads, introduction of traffic signal improvements and better paths for pedestrians and cyclists with crossing facilities.

**The proposals at Windhover Roundabout** include widening of the carriageway approaching the roundabout, traffic signal improvements, and better paths for pedestrians and cyclists with crossing facilities.

Although there were benefits associated with the proposals at the public consultation, further assessments demonstrated that delivering only the two junctions would offer much greater value for money and minimise the risks of delay and disruption involved at construction.

The proposal at Northam Road Rail Bridge posed significant risks to timely delivery of the project within budget. Southampton City Council and stakeholders will continue to seek funding to deliver improvements to this area in the future.

The preferred scheme taken forward provides better value for money while addressing the scheme objectives and the issues highlighted by consultation respondents. This scheme will improve safety, reduce congestion at M27 junction 8 and Windhover Roundabout, and provide connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists. The shorter construction period needed means that benefits will be realised sooner, while disruption to the road network from the traffic management and construction activities will be minimised.

## Southampton City Council – statement on A3024 plans/improvements/scheme

Southampton City Council, in 2017 secured £3.2m of central Government funding towards a £5m project to improve journey time reliability and provide better facilities for people walking and cycling along A3024 Bursledon Road.

The project will include the upgrade to 11 junctions between Botley Road and A334 Bitterne Road East as proposed in the Highways England consultation by providing new traffic signal technology and pedestrian crossings facilities at the junctions, along with a segregated cycle freeway along Bursledon Road and technology to help buses keep to time.

This will complement the M27 Southampton Junctions scheme by continuing the improvements into Southampton. These works are proposed to start in early 2019 and planned to be completed later in 2019.

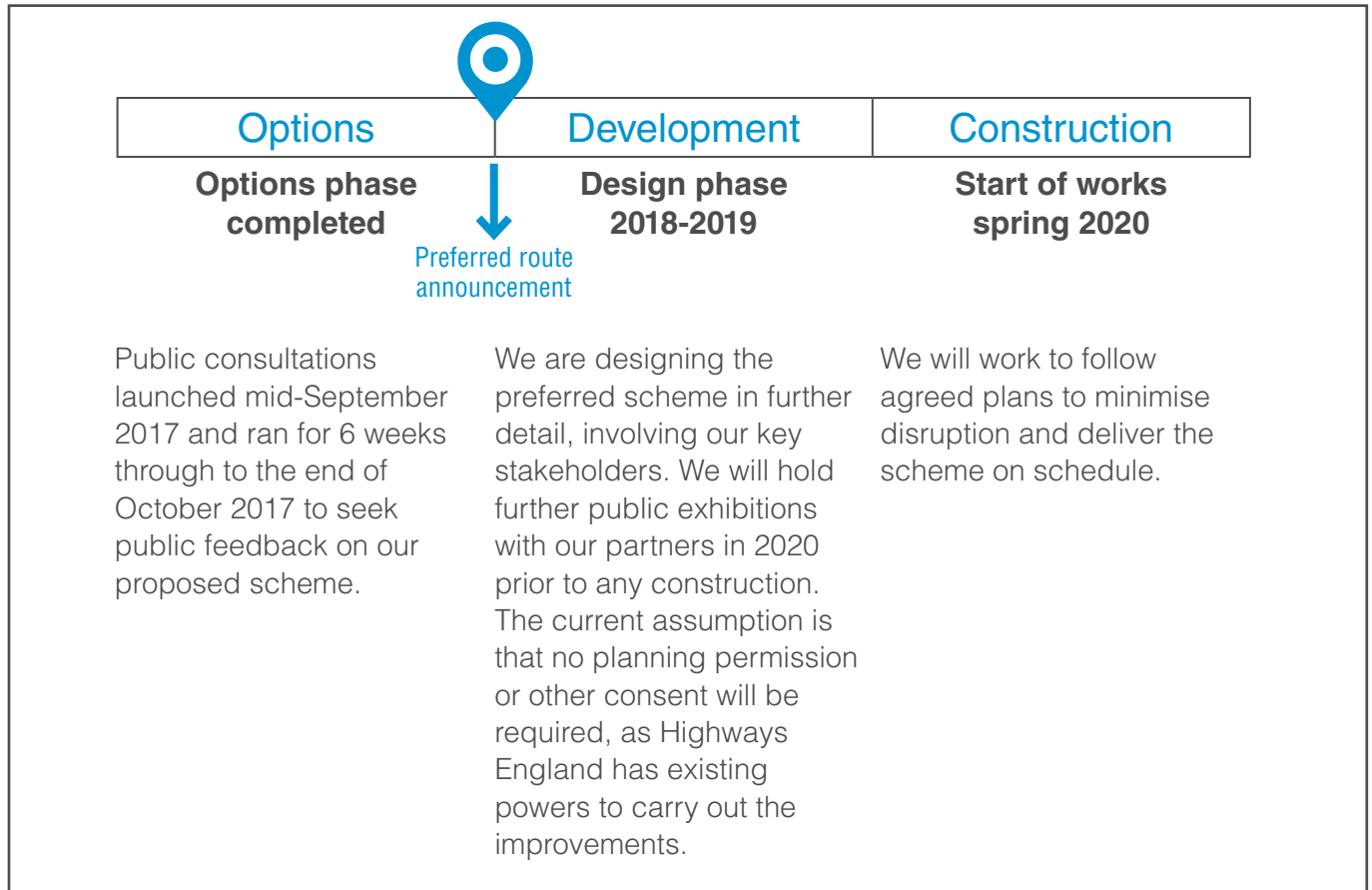
## Hampshire County Council – statement on A3025 plans/improvement/scheme

Hampshire County Council has developed a scheme to improve the northern section of the A3025 Hamble Lane, between the Windhover Roundabout to the north and Portsmouth Road / Lowford Hill to the south. A public consultation on this scheme is taking place during September and October 2018. Should the scheme go ahead, HCC would be likely to commence construction in winter 2020/21. Improvements to Windhover Roundabout and M27 junction 8 are essential to the success of the Hamble Lane improvement scheme, as delays at these two junctions currently compound congestion on the Hamble Lane corridor. Likewise the County Council considers that improvements to Hamble Lane are essential to the success of the Highways England proposed improvements to Windhover Roundabout and M27 junction 8, as congestion on Hamble Lane can cause vehicles to queue back to and through these two junctions, exacerbating delay. By delivering these two schemes, Hampshire County Council believes that the benefits to both the local and strategic highway network are maximised.



## What happens next?

Following the announcement of the preferred scheme, Highways England will carry out further surveys and investigation to allow us to continue to design the scheme in more detail.



## Further information

More information about the scheme, including the full consultation report and other published documents, is available at <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/m27-southampton-junctions/>. You can also register for email updates about the project.

If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact the project team:

- Call: [0300 1235000](tel:03001235000) (24 hours)
- Email us: [M27SouthamptonJunctions@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:M27SouthamptonJunctions@highwaysengland.co.uk)
- Write to us: [M27 Southampton Junctions Major Projects Team, Highways England, Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4LZ](#)
- Website: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/m27-southampton-junctions/>



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