

# Notice of Consultation M3 Junction 9 Scheme Section 47 Planning Act 2008 Notice Publicising a Statement of Community Consultation

**HIGHWAYS ENGLAND COMPANY LIMITED** of Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4LZ ("Highways England") is proposing to alter junction 9 of the M3 which connects south Hampshire and the wider sub-region, with London via the M3 and the midlands and the north via the A34. The M3 junction 9 scheme ("the Proposed Scheme") is intended to reduce congestion and improve journeys between the M3 to and from Southampton and the A34 to and from Newbury. The Proposed Scheme comprises the following key elements:

- Widening of the M3 to form a four lane motorway;
- Rearranging the main junction 9 roundabout;
- Three new bridges and a number of other structures including new underpasses;
- Revised walking and cycling routes;
- New connecting roads from the revised roundabout;
- Improved motorway slip roads.

We intend to make an application ("the Application") under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 to the Secretary of State for Transport for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") to authorise the construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme.

Before submitting the Application, in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 we must publish a document called a Statement of Community Consultation ("SoCC") setting out how we will consult with the local community about the Proposed Scheme. We must also make the SoCC available for inspection by the public and publish this notice stating where and when the SoCC can be inspected. Under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, we have a duty to consult the local community about the Proposed Scheme in accordance with the SoCC.

We have produced a SoCC in respect of the Proposed Scheme, which can be viewed, free of charge, on our Proposed Scheme webpage from 9 am on 14 May 2021. To view the SoCC, please visit the 'documents section' on the following website: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3junction9](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3junction9). The SoCC

will remain on the website for the duration of the consultation period. This SoCC supersedes any previous version.

Details of how the consultation for the Proposed Scheme will be carried out, including our virtual exhibition; bespoke online webinars; telephone surgery, and how to get involved are set out in the SoCC. The consultation will take place between **Thursday 27 May 2021 and Thursday 8 July 2021**.

**Please note** that due to COVID-19 it is not possible to place copies of the SoCC at local venues for inspection. The Government has confirmed that placing the SoCC online meets the requirement to place information on public deposit in the Infrastructure Planning (Publication and Notification of Applications etc.) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (the 2020 Regulations).

The Proposed Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment development ("EIA development") which means a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ("PEIR") describing the environmental effects of the Proposed Scheme known at the time of consultation will be produced and consulted on. It also means that an Environmental Statement will be produced and submitted with the Application in due course.

Requests for a paper copy, or electronic copy via USB drive, of the SoCC can be made to Highways England:

- **By email:** [M3junction9Improvements@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:M3junction9Improvements@highwaysengland.co.uk)
- **Telephone:** 0300 123 5000
- **By post:** Freepost M3 JUNCTION 9

The SoCC will be made available on request, free of charge.

If you have any questions about the SoCC or the proposed consultation on the Proposed Scheme, please visit our website or contact the project team using the details above.

