

SECTION 48 PLANNING ACT 2008 – M3 JUNCTION 9 SCHEME**REGULATION 4 INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 2009 AND REGULATION 13 OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 (AS AMENDED)****NOTICE PUBLICISING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER**

HIGHWAYS ENGLAND COMPANY LIMITED of Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ (“Highways England”) intends 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.

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;
- Providing a same direction free-flow link between the M3/A34;
- 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.

The Proposed Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment development (“EIA development”) for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended). The Application will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement containing information about the likely significant environmental effects, both positive and negative, of the Proposed Scheme. Information compiled so far about the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Scheme is set out for consultation in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“the PEIR”) and summarised in a non-technical summary of the PEIR.

Consultation on the Proposed Scheme will take place from **Thursday 27 May 2021** to **Thursday 8 July 2021**. A copy of the consultation documents (including the PEIR and non-technical summary of the PEIR), plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Proposed Scheme will be available to view, free of charge, on the Proposed Scheme webpage from **9am on Thursday 27 May 2021**. To view the consultation documents, please visit the documents section on the following website: www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3junction9. The consultation documents will remain on the website for the duration of the consultation period.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing measures, Highways England has decided to take a digital first approach to consultation. Highways England has replaced face-to-face consultation events with a virtual exhibition, a telephone surgery and bespoke online webinars. For more details about the consultation please read the Statement of Community Consultation (available to view on the documents section of the Proposed Scheme webpage) or contact Highways England using the contact details

provided below.

Highways England will host a series of bespoke online webinars which will cover different topics and specialist areas. The bespoke online webinars are taking place on the following dates and times:

Topic	Date	Time
Introduction to the M3 Junction 9 improvement scheme and next steps	Wednesday 2 June 2021	7.00pm – 8.00pm
	Saturday 5 June 2021	3.30pm - 4.30pm
Our proposals – what we are planning to do	Tuesday 8 June 2021	9.30am – 10.30am
	Thursday 17 June 2021	7.00pm – 8.00pm
Our effect on the environment: overview	Thursday 10 June 2021	7.00pm – 8.00pm
Our effect on the environment: landscape, visual impacts, wildlife and habitats	Monday 14 June 2021	7.00pm – 8.00pm
Our effect on the environment: air quality and noise	Tuesday 15 June 2021	7.00pm – 8.00pm

Highways England will also be running a telephone surgery where you will be able to book an appointment with a member of the project team to discuss the proposals. Appointments will be available Monday to Friday between 12.00pm to 7.00pm and Saturday between 10.00am to 4.00pm throughout the consultation period.

Registration details of the bespoke online webinars and telephone surgery will be available under the latest updates tab on the Proposed Scheme webpage (www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3junction9) and in the consultation brochure. You can also contact Highways England using the contact details provided below.

Copies of the consultation documents, plans and maps may be requested during the consultation period from Highways England. Please contact Highways England for further details using the details provided below:

- **Email:** M3Junction9Improvements@highwaysengland.co.uk
- **Post:** Freepost M3 JUNCTION 9
- **Phone:** 0300 123 5000

There may be a charge of up to £200 (including postage) for a paper copy of the PEIR, however all other paper copies of the consultation documents will be supplied free of charge. A digital copy on a USB drive of all the consultation documents will be supplied upon request free of charge. Please contact Highways England for further details.

Any person may comment on the Proposed Scheme or otherwise respond to this consultation. The consultation brochure and questionnaire explain the specific topics on which Highways England is seeking feedback. People are not restricted to commenting on these issues, and Highways England welcomes feedback on any aspect of the Proposed Scheme. **Responses must be received no later than 11.59 pm on Thursday 8 July 2021. Responses received after this time may not be considered.**

When providing your response, please include your name and postcode, and confirm the nature of your interest in the Proposed Scheme. Completed questionnaires and

responses must be submitted:

- **Online at:** www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3junction9
- **By emailing:** M3Junction9Improvements@highwaysengland.co.uk
- **In writing to:** Freepost M3 JUNCTION 9

Highways England will consider and have regard to all responses before submitting its Application for a Development Consent Order to the Secretary of State. Responses will form the basis of a Consultation Report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the Application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, when providing a comment, it should be borne in mind that the contents of it may be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report.

If you would like further information about this notice, the consultation or the Proposed Scheme, please contact Highways England by using one of the contact methods provided above or by calling 0300 123 5000.

Anne-Marie Palmer
Project Manager, M3 Junction 9