

Trans-Pennine Upgrade Programme

Preferred route announcement



Introduction

Highways England operates, maintains and improves England’s motorways and major A-roads, the strategic road network. We want to make sure all our major roads are more dependable, durable and, most importantly, safe. That’s why we’re delivering £15 billion of investment on our network – the largest investment in a generation. The Trans-Pennine Upgrade Programme is a critical part of this investment. The route provides a key connection between two important Northern cities, Manchester and Sheffield, but it suffers from significant congestion, poor journey times, reliability and high accident rates.

In this brochure we explain the preferred package for the Trans-Pennine Upgrade Programme and how we have assessed the options and carried out public consultation. We also give details of what will happen next.

Why is the scheme needed?

The route - which mostly consists of single carriageway sections with steep gradients and sharp bends - connects the M67 at Mottram in Longdendale, with the M1 north of Sheffield. Where it passes through villages, it adversely impacts on local people making it difficult for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to move around.

Sections of the route can also be badly affected by bad weather and accident rates are above the national average. The road is often closed for this reason, and as a consequence it's not as reliable

as it should be. The lack of technology to assist motorists in the area also means that information for travellers is poor and the management of incidents is more challenging.

The Trans-Pennine Upgrade Programme will improve the connection between Manchester and Sheffield, while addressing a number of safety issues on the route and improving traffic conditions in Mottram in Longdendale. This scheme supports the achievement of our objective of providing a safe, free-flowing and accessible network.



Overview of the Trans-Pennine route

Specifically the Trans-Pennine Upgrade Programme will:

- Improve connectivity between Manchester and Sheffield by reducing journey times;
- Improve air quality and reduce noise impacts;
- Positively benefit society by re-connecting local communities along the route;
- Increase road capacity and reduce delays and queues that occur during busy periods by improving the performance of junctions on the routes;
- Improve the resilience of the routes through reductions in the number of incidents and by the use of technology to advise drivers of incidents along the route;
- Reduce the number of accidents and improve overall safety on the route.



Public consultation

We held a 4-week public consultation between 13 March and 10 April 2017 giving people the opportunity to have their say on our proposals. As part of this we held 5 public information events at venues along the route.

People were asked to:

- **Provide feedback on the 2 options presented for the Mottram Moor and A57(T) to A57 Link Roads:** Option A - a new dual carriageway link from the M67 terminal roundabout to a new junction at A57(T) Mottram Moor near the junction with Back Moor and a single carriageway link from the new junction at A57(T) Mottram Moor to a new junction on the A57 at Brookfield, and Option B - a new dual carriageway link from the M67 terminal roundabout to a new junction at A57(T) Mottram Moor near Coach Road and single carriageway link from the new junction at A57(T) Mottram Moor to a new junction on the A57 at Brookfield.
- **Provide feedback on the 2 options presented for the dualling of the A61:** Option 1 - to stop all right turn movements at the minor road junctions so that they become left in, left out only junctions, and Option 2 - to stop all right turn movements out of the minor roads onto the A61 but maintain the right turns from the A61 into Westwood New Road and Wentworth Way.
- **Share their views about the proposal to create 2 sections of climbing lanes** on the A628 between Tintwistle and Flouch.
- **Share their views about a package of safety and technology measures** including the introduction of speed limits and installation of enforcement cameras, the installation of variable message signs, and improved road surfaces and markings.

Response to the public consultation

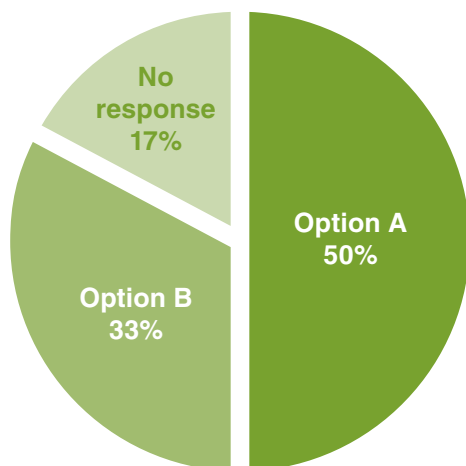
Over 1,000 people attended the 5 public information events that were held and we received 878 completed questionnaires in response to the consultation.

In response to the proposed link roads:

We received clear feedback, with 50% of respondents preferring Option A, compared to 33% preferring Option B, and 17% not offering any response.

Many of the individuals who preferred Option A believed that the road layout is more straightforward and easier to use than Option B and will have less impact on local communities. People felt that Option A strikes a balance between solving the traffic problems in the area, having a reduced impact on the environment and providing a safer route.

Which of the two options for the Mottram Moor Link Road and the A57(t) to A57 Link Road do you prefer?



In response to the climbing lanes:

The majority of respondents (63%) strongly agreed or agreed that the climbing lanes will reduce collisions, improve journey times and have a major positive impact on safety. However, 14% strongly disagreed or disagreed with this and 23% of respondents either expressed no opinion or did not answer the question.

The full public consultation report, and other useful documents for instance the Scheme Assessment Report, can be found on the project website: <http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/a57a628-trans-pennine-programme/>

In response to the safety and technology measures:

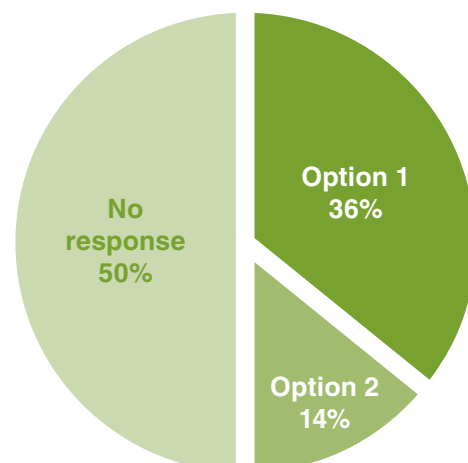
There were mixed opinions on this:

- Approximately 80% of people strongly agreed or agreed that the proposed general safety measures would improve safety on the route;
- Approximately 50% strongly agreed or agreed that the speed limits and enforcement camera measures would improve safety and approximately 25% strongly disagreed or disagreed;
- Over 60% of people strongly agreed or agreed that the technology measures would improve conditions on the route.

In response to the A61 dualling proposal:

50% of people did not express a preference at all; however where people did offer an opinion, Option 1, stopping all right turn movements, was the most favoured. Many individuals used the consultation period to share their views about Westwood Roundabout in Tankersley near Sheffield, stating they felt it is too congested and its inefficiency could become a barrier to accessing local businesses.

Which of the two options for the A61 dualling do you prefer?



The Preferred Package

We have assessed all the feedback received and have selected the following elements that will be taken forward to the next stage:

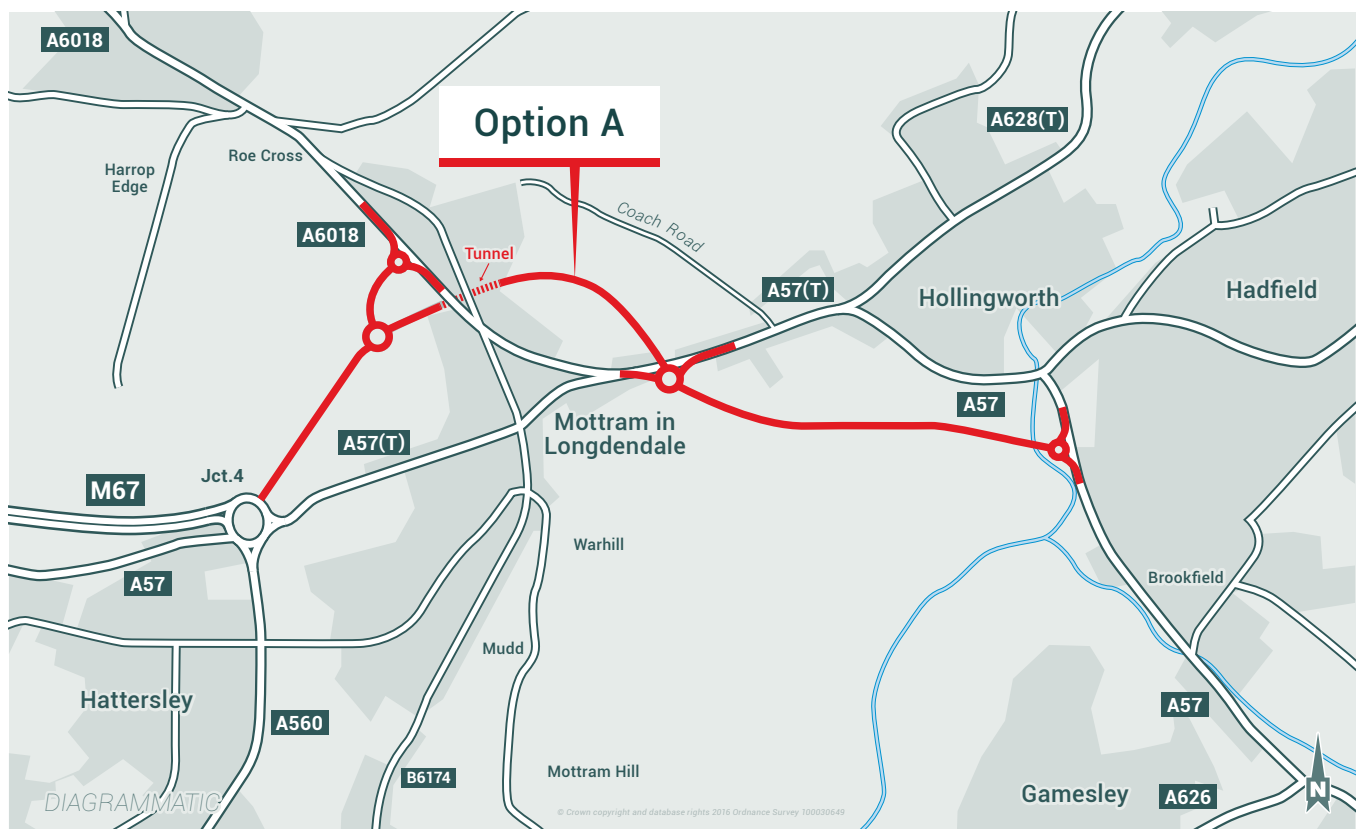
- Mottram Moor and A57(T) to A57 Link Roads:** Option A has been identified as the preferred route. This option performed the best in terms of community impact and had the most support from those taking part in the consultation.
- Safety and technology:** There was broad support for the majority of the proposed measures, so we will do further work to identify how they can be best used along the route. We will carefully consider whether changes to speed limits and the installation of average speed cameras are necessary.

Elements being considered further:

As part of this announcement we are not including a preferred route for the A628 climbing lanes.

The proposal to dual the A61 will also be looked at again, so we can further assess what needs to be done. In the meantime we will take forward some work at Westwood Roundabout to improve congestion and traffic flows.

The preferred route for the Mottram Moor and A57 (T) to A57 link road



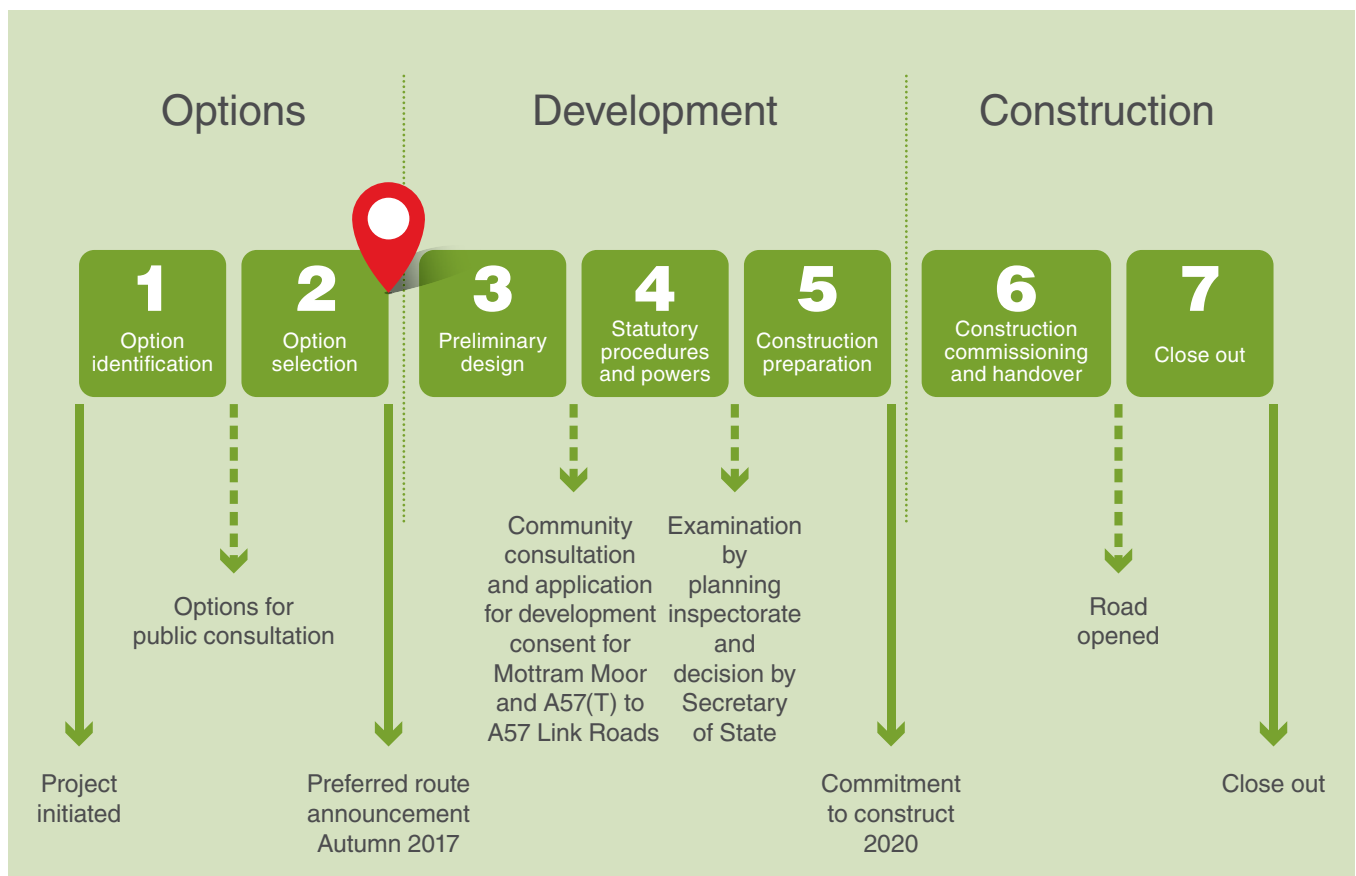
What happens next?

During the next stage of the project our team will carry out further surveys and assessments to allow us to develop the design of the preferred package.

The Mottram Moor and A57(T) to A57 Link Roads element of this scheme is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. As such we are required to make an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) in order to obtain planning permission to construct it. This application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate who will examine the application in public hearings and then make a recommendation to the Secretary

of State for Transport, who will decide whether or not the project will go ahead. We envisage that we will submit our application for a DCO by winter 2018/19 and a decision is expected in spring 2020. To inform our application for a DCO, we will hold a statutory consultation by summer 2018 to get your feedback.

Highways England is already starting to deliver some localised safety schemes along the Trans-Pennine route and, where possible, the early delivery of other elements of the scheme will also be considered.



Further Information

More information about the Trans-Pennine Upgrade programme is available at <http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/a57a628-trans-pennine-programme/>. You can also register for email updates about the scheme on this website.

Copies of the full public consultation report are also available to view at the following local venues:

- **Barnsley:** Central Library
- **Broadbottom:** Community Centre; Magdalene Centre
- **Gamesley:** Community and Sports Centre
- **Glossop:** Glossop Library; Leisure Centre; Bradbury Community House
- **Hadfield:** Library
- **Hattersley:** Hattersley Hub; Tesco Hattersley; Hattersley Library
- **Hollingsworth:** Post Office; St Mary's Church
- **Langsett:** Bank View Café
- **Mottram:** Post Office; J. Wood and Company Ironmongers
- **Sheffield:** Penistone Library; Stocksbridge Library
- **Tankersley:** Welfare Hall; Post Office

If you have any queries about this scheme you can contact the project team directly in the following ways:

- Phone: **0300 470 5103** (Monday to Friday, 9:00 - 17:00)
- Email: **Trans_Pennine_Scheme@highwaysengland.co.uk**
- In writing: Trans-Pennine Upgrade Programme,
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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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