

A5036

Access to the Port of Liverpool Data collection exercises

Update – June 2015

On 1st December 2014, the Secretary of State for Transport announced details of the Government's road investment strategy (RIS), a £15 billion plan to increase the capacity and condition of roads for motorists across England. Included within the RIS was a commitment to improve access to the Port of Liverpool.

The Port is the busiest in the North West and is expanding. It is expected to increase its capacity threefold by 2030 following the Department for Transport's (DfT) approval to provide a deep-sea container berth, Liverpool2, which is currently under construction. Access to the Port is via the existing A5036 which links the Port with the M57/M58 Switch Island interchange. This road suffers from a high level of congestion which is likely to get worse as the area is developed further.

We have confirmed that a major highways improvement will be needed as part of an approach involving all modes of travel; however no specific scheme has been identified or proposed at this time.

We have started to look at all available options and will include the potential to upgrade the existing road or to provide a possible new road link. This is expected to take between 18 and 24 months after which we will consult with the public and listen to your views. Our assessment will consider good value for money, environmental issues and impacts on local communities.

Over the next few months a series of data collection exercises will be carried out. These will include:

Traffic surveys

To ensure that our traffic information for the local area is accurate, we will be conducting a series of traffic surveys. Most of the data will be collected without impacting on journeys through the use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) surveys and traffic counts. This system will not record specific vehicle details and is not linked to speeding or other traffic offences.

We will also need to carry out roadside survey interviews (RSI) where drivers are stopped and



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asked a number of travel related questions. These will be organised with Merseyside Police who will assist us in making sure any delays are kept to a minimum.

Environmental surveys

Some surveys, for example of over-wintering birds, have already started. Other surveys, including landscape, noise and air quality monitoring are proposed. None of these require access to private land.

Geotechnical surveys

The cost of any highway construction is particularly influenced by ground conditions. A ground investigation survey will be necessary to collect data on existing ground conditions to allow a better evaluation of likely project costs. We plan to carry out these surveys in Summer 2015. These investigations mean the digging of trial holes within the park through the use of drilling rigs

Our assessment of available options is likely to be completed by Winter 2016/17, after which there will be an extensive public consultation and stakeholder engagement event(s) in order to discuss our findings and consider the options in more detail.

Following the completion of the public consultation exercise the views and comments received will be assessed to help inform the choice of a preferred option.

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