



M3 junction 9 scheme
Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

1 Introduction

- 1.1 We operate, maintain and improve England's motorways and major A-roads – the strategic road network (SRN). The changes planned at M3 junction 9 are a critical part of our ongoing investment in the SRN and will improve journeys between south Hampshire and London via the M3 and the midlands and the north via the A34.
- 1.2 This Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') sets out our approach to future consultation with the local community including residents, businesses, community groups and political representatives on the proposed M3 junction 9 improvement scheme ('the Proposed Scheme'). The consultation will provide an opportunity for the local community to engage and help shape the proposed design. Responses to the consultation will be considered before finalising the proposals and applying for development consent from the Secretary of State for Transport.
- 1.3 We previously undertook consultation in early 2018 and again, in summer 2019. For the summer 2019 consultation a SoCC was prepared, as required by the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) ('PA 2008'). This SoCC replaces the earlier one and updates our proposals to set out our next stage of consultation and to take account of the unique circumstances that have come about due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.4 To make sure we approach our consultation in the very best way for the local community, we have consulted on this document with Winchester City Council (WCC), Hampshire County Council (HCC) and South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). These are the local authorities in the area in which the Proposed Scheme is proposed to be built and which may be directly affected by the Proposed Scheme.
- 1.5 This document also gives you the background to the Proposed Scheme and how our application to build it will progress.

2 Our application

- 2.1 The Proposed Scheme is being developed under the PA 2008. We are publishing this statement in accordance with Section 47 (duty to consult local community) of the PA 2008. This requires applicants to prepare a statement explaining how they will consult with the local community about the proposed application and carry out pre-application consultation in accordance with this statement.
- 2.2 Under the PA 2008, we are required to make an application to the Secretary of State for Transport through the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') to build the Proposed Scheme. An Examining Authority, chosen by the Planning Inspectorate, will examine the application and the Secretary of State for Transport will decide on whether the Proposed Scheme should go ahead based on a recommendation made by the Planning Inspectorate. We anticipate that our DCO application for the Proposed Scheme will be submitted in early 2022.
- 2.3 A key consideration for the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State for Transport when assessing our DCO application is the National Networks National

Policy Statement¹ ('NNNPS'). The NNNPS sets out the need for development of road projects on the national networks and is the main policy against which decisions on major road projects are made.

- 2.4 You can find more information about the Planning Inspectorate and the PA 2008 on their National Infrastructure Planning website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> or by calling the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000.

3 The Proposed Scheme

- 3.1 The M3 junction 9 is a key transport interchange which connects south Hampshire and the wider sub-region, with London via the M3, and the midlands and the north via the A34. 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. Specifically, we are proposing to widen the M3 locally to the junction, to create four lanes each way; rearrange the existing main junction 9 roundabout to make it more efficient; build new bridges and a number of other structures including new underpasses, revise walking and cycling routes; and improve the motorway slip-roads.

4 Environmental information and potential impacts

- 4.1 The Proposed Scheme is classified as 'EIA development' for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended) ('EIA Regulations 2017').
- 4.2 We are therefore required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') for the Proposed Scheme. We will publish a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') as part of the pre-application consultation and we will be seeking views on this information.
- 4.3 In accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017, the PEIR (*which will set out the preliminary environmental information collected to date and the potential likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Scheme as we have ascertained them so far*) will be prepared to allow consultees to take an informed view of these matters. A non-technical summary of the PEIR will also be made available.
- 4.4 We will submit an Environmental Statement with the DCO application which will report on the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Scheme identified in the EIA and the appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place where necessary.
- 4.5 Additional information about the Proposed Scheme, including maps or plans, will be included in our public consultation brochure. Copies of the brochure will be available

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-national-networks>

online during the consultation period and available on request in printed form or on a USB.

5 Consulting the community and previous consultations

5.1 We have already carried out two rounds of consultation near the Proposed Scheme. We consulted on:

- our proposed route options for the Proposed Scheme, between January and February 2018; and
- our proposed scheme design for improvements for the M3 junction 9, between July and August 2019, where consultees were asked for their views on the design of the Proposed Scheme and our approach to addressing the potential environmental impacts.

5.2 You can find out more information about the previous consultations, including copies of the previous consultation materials, by visiting the Proposed Scheme webpage: www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3junction9

6 Next consultation - why and when

6.1 Feedback from the consultation carried out between July and August 2019 showed that there was a high level of support for the Proposed Scheme. However, some important comments were provided at that time, including;

- the length available for vehicles to change lanes when joining the A34 from junction 9 and then heading on to the A33/Kings Worthy;
- the future traffic capacity of the Proposed Scheme; and
- the length of time that the construction works would take.

6.2 Therefore, we've changed the design where possible to try to resolve some of the issues raised.

6.3 It is important to us that this next public consultation allows members of the public to have their say by:

- encouraging the community to continue to help shape our proposals to maximise local benefits and minimise any downsides;
- helping local people understand the potential nature and local impact of our proposals;
- providing the opportunity to give feedback on potential mitigation measures being considered; and
- identifying ways in which our proposals, without significant costs, support wider strategic or local objectives.

- 6.4 Your comments will help us achieve these objectives. We will listen to everyone's views and we'll consider your opinions before we submit our DCO application.
- 6.5 The consultation will take place between **Thursday 27 May 2021 and Thursday 8 July 2021**. Consultation responses should be submitted to Highways England by **11.59pm on Thursday 8 July 2021**. Responses received after the close of the consultation cannot be guaranteed to be considered.

7 What we will consult on

- 7.1 During the consultation period, we welcome and will consider comments on all aspects of the Proposed Scheme and will specifically invite comments on the following:
- the new areas for environmental works and to place spare excavated material;
 - the new areas for temporary construction compounds;
 - the new highways and roundabout design to introduce better traffic flow between the M3 and A34;
 - the extra space needed to build the Proposed Scheme; and
 - our proposals for revised walking and cycling routes.
- 7.2 Our summer 2019 consultation sought comments on all aspects of the Proposed Scheme, and we have made some substantial design changes as a result. Whilst we welcome and encourage comments on all aspects of the Proposed Scheme in this consultation, areas that have been amended as a result of the previous consultation may be less open to further design changes. This is because they are responses to consultee comments received previously. If we do not make further changes to these areas as a result of comments received at our next consultation, we will explain why in our final application.

8 Who can take part?

8.1 In consultation with WCC, HCC and SDNP, we have developed a consultation target area, based on a 5km radius around the Indicative Application Boundary, to engage with those local communities who may be affected by the Proposed Scheme. Those in the consultation target area, shown in Figure 1, will be sent a consultation flyer, informing them about the Proposed Scheme by post or email, including:

- local residents with postal addresses within the consultation boundary;
- local businesses with postal addresses within the consultation boundary;
- local interest groups which are active within the consultation boundary; and
- local elected representatives.

8.2 This is a larger consultation target area than was used in the summer 2019 consultation.

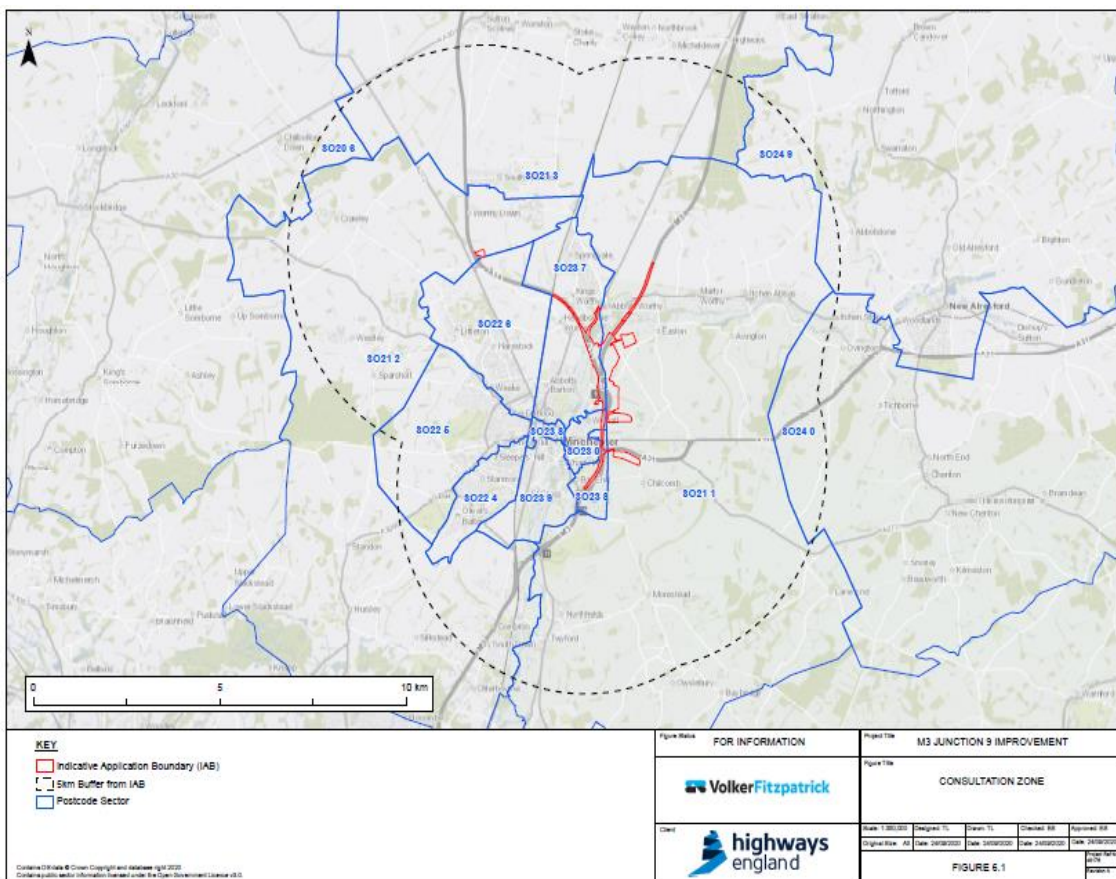


Figure 1: Consultation target area

8.3 Anyone who is interested in the Proposed Scheme is welcome to take part, regardless of where they live or work. We welcome all views and will consider them before we submit our DCO application. We will inform local communities living outside the consultation target area about the Proposed Scheme and consultation

exercise through newspaper advertisements, social media and the Proposed Scheme webpage.

9 How will we consult?

- 9.1 In response to the current restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have developed a 'digital first' approach to consultation, ensuring we are continuing to put the health and safety of the public and project staff first, whilst giving everyone the opportunity to view, understand and provide feedback on the Proposed Scheme. We recognise the importance of doing our best to engage with people without internet devices, or with poor internet connections, despite COVID-19 and have included measures to achieve this. We have also committed to undertaking additional activities if COVID-19 restrictions allow us to do so at the time.
- 9.2 We will provide information about the Proposed Scheme and the consultation through a range of methods as listed in the following table:

Table 1: Details of how we will consult

Method	Detail
Virtual exhibition	We will host a 'virtual exhibition' which will include an interactive map, exhibition boards, a 3D flythrough of the Proposed Scheme, access to the consultation documents and a link to the online questionnaire. The virtual exhibition room will be open throughout the consultation period.
Proposed Scheme webpage	The Proposed Scheme webpage (www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3junction9) will provide a link to the Citizen Space page for the scheme. All the consultation materials will be uploaded to this page, including the PEIR. There will also be an online questionnaire on this page.
Bespoke webinars	<p>We will host a series of bespoke webinars at a range of times and days, to include mornings, evenings and weekends.</p> <p>The dates and times of the webinars will be set out on the Proposed Scheme webpage, included in consultation publicity materials and promoted via social media. The webinars will be recorded and retained on the Proposed Scheme webpage for those who cannot attend the 'live' version.</p> <p>The purpose of the webinars will be to help you understand the proposals and prepare your response to the consultation. Comments or questions made at the webinars will be noted but will not be considered as formal responses to the consultation. This will be made clear at each webinar.</p> <p>Consideration will be given to written responses to the consultation made via the questionnaire form,</p>

Method	Detail
	and emails or letters to the project team, as described in Section 10 of this SoCC.
Consultation flyer	<p>Flyers will be mailed to stakeholders within the consultation target area. The flyer will provide details of the virtual consultation, how to find out more information and how to provide feedback.</p> <p>Details of the consultation target area can be found at Section 8 of this SoCC.</p>
Telephone surgery	<p>Due to the restrictions in place relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will also be offering additional support to help the public understand the Proposed Scheme and supplement any face-to-face conversations that they would have had with the project team. When the consultation launches, there will be an opportunity to book an appointment with a project representative to discuss the Proposed Scheme over the telephone. Appointments will be available Monday to Friday between 12pm to 7pm and Saturday between 10am to 4pm throughout the consultation period. You will be able to request an appointment by emailing M3junction9Improvements@highwaysengland.co.uk or by calling 0300 123 5000. Registration details will be advertised on the Proposed Scheme webpage, included in consultation publicity materials and promoted via social media.</p>
Statutory notices	<p>Statutory notices to publicise the proposed DCO application and the SoCC will be published as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proposed DCO application – once in a national newspaper (The Times) and the London Gazette and twice in local newspapers (the Hampshire Chronicle, the Mid Hampshire Observer and the Hampshire Independent²) • publicising the SoCC – once in a local newspaper (the Hampshire Chronicle, the Mid Hampshire Observer and the Hampshire Independent²).
Posters	We will prepare posters advertising the consultation and will share them with local venues to display.
Media adverts and press releases	The public consultation will be advertised by placing a media advert in the Hampshire Chronicle ³ or similar newspaper circulating in the area. A press release detailing the consultation period and how the

² Should COVID-19 affect the circulation of local newspapers, we will consider using a different publication.

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Method	Detail
	community and road users can get involved will be issued to local media.
Social media	The public consultation will be advertised via Highways England's South-East Facebook page and the corresponding Twitter account (@HighwaysSEAST).
Stakeholder briefing	We will host briefing events for key stakeholders, including local authorities, parish councils and local businesses, to advise them of how we intend to undertake the consultation, how they can get involved and raise awareness of the consultation.

Additional activities not required by the Regulations

- 9.3 It is considered that the activities set out in Table 1 fulfil the relevant requirements of the PA 2008 and associated regulations. Protection of public health and that of our staff remain the guiding principle on which the decision to run any additional in-person activities are made. In consideration of the current status of restrictions and responses to the Covid-19 pandemic, relative to the timing of this consultation, we do not consider it appropriate to consider in-person activities.
- 9.4 In the unlikely event that any of the activities set out in Table 1 cannot be undertaken due to circumstances beyond our control these will, where possible, be substituted with similar activity (or activities), with notice being given to WCC, HCC and SDNPA and publicised in local newspapers (via a press release) circulating in the vicinity of the Proposed Scheme. Any activity changes will also be published on the Proposed Scheme webpage and social media via Highways England's South-East Facebook page and the corresponding Twitter account (@HighwaysSEAST).

10 How to respond to the consultation

- 10.1 A questionnaire will be produced to help you provide comments on the Proposed Scheme design. All completed questionnaires or separate comments must be made in writing through methods listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Details of how to respond to the consultation

Method	Details
Online questionnaire	Fill in and submit the online questionnaire, accessed via the Proposed Scheme webpage: www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3junction9 or by clicking on the link within the virtual exhibition room.
Freepost	Use a paper copy version of the questionnaire returning it to: Freepost M3 JUNCTION 9. If you would like to be sent a paper copy version of the questionnaire, you can request one by contacting Highways England at: 0300 123 5000, or if you have access to email: M3junction9Improvements@highwaysengland.co.uk
Email	Email your comments or completed questionnaire to: M3junction9Improvements@highwaysengland.co.uk

10.2 All responses must be received **by 11.59pm on Thursday 8 July 2021**. Responses received after the close of the consultation cannot be guaranteed to be considered.

11 Access to consultation documents

11.1 Consultation documents will be made available to help inform your consultation response. The following consultation documents will be available to view online, free of charge, during the consultation period:

- Public consultation brochure – a non-technical summary of the proposals including; the background to the Proposed Scheme; a summary of the Proposed Scheme; information about design changes since last consultation; information about potential benefits, effects and impacts of the Proposed Scheme; how we propose to mitigate any potential impacts; and signposts for readers to more detailed information reports and how to provide feedback on the Proposed Scheme;
- Proposed Scheme map – showing the full extent of the Proposed Scheme;
- PEIR – contains an overview of the nature and scale of the Proposed Scheme and the potential likely significant environmental effects, in accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017;
- PEIR NTS – a non-technical summary ('NTS') of the information in the PEIR;
- Questionnaire – containing questions to capture views on the proposals and consultation;
- Section 47 Notice – a copy of the notice published in a local newspaper publicising the SoCC;
- Section 48 Notice – a copy of the notice published in a local newspaper, the London Gazette and a national newspaper publicising Highways England's intention to submit a DCO application for the Proposed Scheme as required by Section 48 of the PA 2008; and
- SoCC – this document.

11.2 Previous public consultation reports and public consultation summary documents will also be available to view online.

- 11.3 We will make the consultation documents listed above available to view, free of charge, in the following way:

Table 3: Methods to make consultation documents available

Method	Detail
Proposed Scheme webpage	All consultation documents will be published on the Proposed Scheme webpage: www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3junction9

- 11.4 If you require a paper copy of any of the consultation documents, you can request this by contacting Highways England at: 0300 123 5000 or emailing: M3junction9Improvements@highwaysengland.co.uk. There may be a charge of up to £200 (including postage) for a paper copy of the PEIR, however all other consultation documents listed under Section 11.1 in this SoCC will be made available on request, free of charge.
- 11.5 A digital copy on a USB of all the consultation documents listed under Section 11.1 in this SoCC can also be supplied upon request, free of charge.
- 11.6 The Government has confirmed that placing materials online meets the requirement to place information on public deposit in the Infrastructure (Publication and Notification of Applications etc.) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020.

12 Next steps

- 12.1 We will record and consider all responses received by **11.59 pm on Thursday 8 July 2021** when finalising the application before submitting it to the Planning Inspectorate.
- 12.2 Details of all consultation responses will be included in the Consultation Report which will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the application and will be made public. The Consultation Report will include a description of how the application was informed by the responses received and outline any changes made because of the consultation.
- 12.3 The Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to the next stage of the process and will determine whether our consultation has been adequate.

13 Your data, your rights

Your data, your rights

On 25 May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) became law. The law requires Highways England to explain to you – consultees, stakeholders and customers – how your personal data will be used and stored.

Highways England adheres to the government’s consultation principles, the Planning Act 2008 and the Highways Act 1980 as required, and may collect personal data to help shape development of highways schemes.

Personal data collected by the project team will be processed and retained by

Highways England and its appointed contractors until the scheme is complete. In some instances consultation responses may also be sent to the Planning Inspectorate.

Under the GDPR regulations you have the following rights:

- Right of access to the data (Subject Access Request)
- Right for the rectification of errors
- Right to erasure of personal data – this is not an absolute right under the legislation
- Right to restrict processing or to object to processing

■ **Right to data portability**

If, at any point, Highways England plans to process the personal data we hold for a purpose other than that for which it was originally collected, we will tell you what that other purpose is. We will do this prior to any further processing taking place and we will include any relevant additional information, including your right to object to that further processing.

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority, the Information Commissioners Office.



If you'd like more information about how we manage data, or a copy of our privacy notice, please contact: DataProtectionAdvice@highwaysengland.co.uk

14 Further information and contact details

14.1 You can find more information about the Proposed Scheme and sign up to alerts by visiting the Proposed Scheme webpage at:

www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m3junction9

14.2 If you have any queries about the Proposed Scheme, please contact Highways England using the details below:

- **Email:** M3junction9Improvements@highwaysengland.co.uk
- **Post:** Freepost M3 JUNCTION 9
- **Phone:** 0300 123 5000

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