

Castle Street | A63 Improvements

Preferred Route Announcement



Preferred Route Announcement



Introduction

During Spring 2009, the Highways Agency held a Public Consultation exercise to find out the views of local residents, businesses and other key stakeholders, on our proposals to improve the A63 Castle Street in Hull between Porter Street and Myton Swing Bridge.

This leaflet summarises the results and presents the Preferred Route, announced by the Secretary of State for Transport.

Scheme Objectives

The scheme objectives are to:

- improve access to the Port of Hull
- relieve congestion and improve safety
- reduce the impact of the barrier caused by Castle Street, between the city centre to the north and the tourist and leisure facilities to the south.

Location



Public Consultation

The Highways Agency ran the Public Consultation for 12 weeks between 9 March and 5 June 2009.

Between 9 March & 1 April 2009 we distributed a Public Consultation leaflet and questionnaire to local residents and businesses in the local area, and HGV drivers at the Port of Hull. We delivered 2,500 leaflets to local libraries, community centres and council offices, and set up a web page where you could complete the questionnaire on-line.

We sought views from other groups, including Parish, Town, City, and Councils, environmental protection bodies, non-motorised user groups and other key stakeholders.

Six options were presented to the public, these were:

Preferred Options

- A63 in cutting at Mytongate Junction (the 'Underground Option')
- A63 on flyover at Mytongate Junction (the 'Overground Option')

Non-preferred Options

- Underground Landbridge Option
- Underground Cut & Cover Tunnel Option
- Overground Landbridge Equivalent Option
- Overground Extended Viaduct Option

The Highways Agency believes the non-preferred options offer poor value for money, are outside the budget available and cause more negative impacts on the environment, than the preferred options.

Response to the Public Consultation

A total of 544 people attended the Public Exhibition over the four days. The Highways Agency received 1503 completed questionnaires.

The consultation responses indicated an overall preference for the Underground Option. Of the ten respondent groups, including Hull City Council, Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce, Associated British Ports and residents local to the scheme, a preference was indicated for the Underground Option. It should be noted that strong support for the Underground Option was recorded from Hull City Council and local residents.



Amendments following Public Consultation

Respondents have suggested that the A63 Castle Street could be improved in other ways. We considered all of the alternative suggestions, and where appropriate we produced drawings to enable us to assess the suggestions.

Suggestions which followed the line of the existing road or “on-line” were generally found not to be suitable because they:

- increase land take within Trinity Burial Ground
- increase construction costs
- cause greater impacts on the environment.

One suggestion was a minor variation to the alignment of slip roads at Market place and we will consider this further in the preliminary design.

We also received suggestions that changed the line of the scheme from the existing road, we call this “off-line”. The recommendations from the “the Hull East West Multi-Modal Study” asked us to provide a solution which followed the route of the existing road.

The off-line suggestions would have required alterations to the local road network, which is operated by the Local Authority and would have been more expensive.

For these reasons none of the suggestions were taken further, and the scheme remains unchanged.

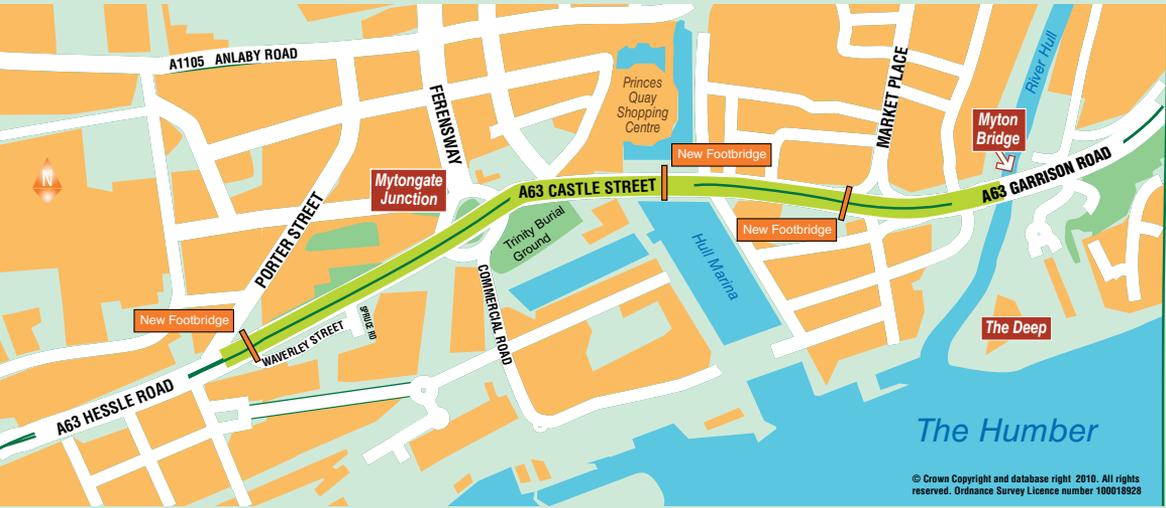


Decision of the Secretary of State for Transport

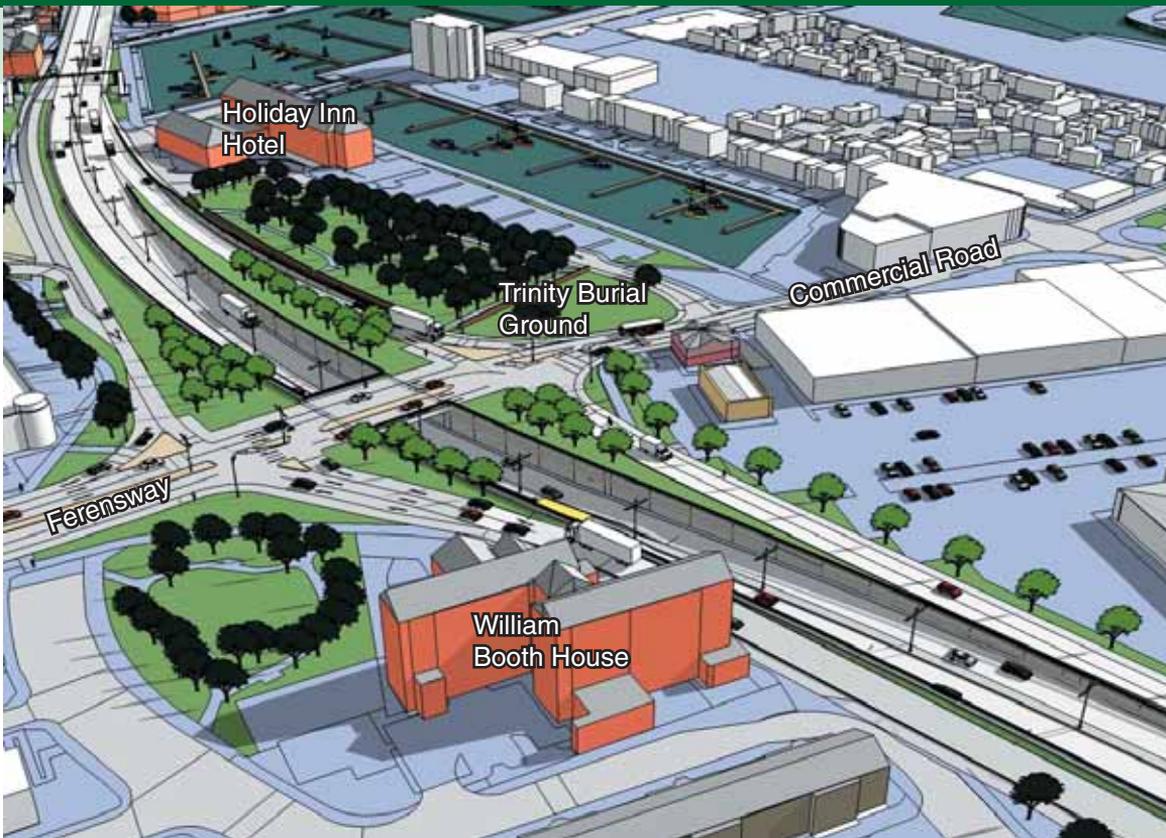
The Secretary of State for Transport has considered the views expressed by the public and agrees that the Underground Option, as shown on the adjacent plan, should be the preferred route.

- We would lower the level of Castle Street in the vicinity of Mytongate Junction (Ferensway/Commercial Road) by approximately 7m and raise Ferensway and Commercial Road passing over it by approximately 1m, creating a split level junction.
- Between Mytongate Junction and Market Place, we would widen the eastbound carriageway to three lanes, with the nearside lane being marked for local traffic. The westbound carriageway would have two lanes, as at present.
- Pedestrian footbridges would be provided at Porter Street, in front of Princes Quay shopping centre and at Market Place, to allow pedestrians to cross above Castle Street.
- It would be necessary to close accesses from Castle Street to the Holiday Inn Hotel, Spruce Road and Waverley Street, on safety grounds. Alternative access would be provided for the Hotel from Commercial Road and access to Spruce Road/Waverley Street is currently proposed via a new road off St James Square/St James Street.

A63 Castle Street Preferred Route



Preferred Route: the Underground Option



Air Quality Assessment

Hull City Council has declared the area in which the scheme is located an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). The purpose of the AQMA is to monitor and improve air quality.

When the Highways Agency assessed the impact the new scheme would have, by monitoring air quality at six sites along Castle Street, we found overall air quality would improve with emissions at five of the six sites being within acceptable levels. The sixth site showed increases in emissions and will be the subject of further monitoring.

Following the Preferred Route Announcement we will carry out further testing and modelling to confirm the scheme does not introduce any exceedances of statutory air quality limits.



What happens next?

The Underground Option will be designated as the Preferred Route for upgrading the Castle Street section of the A63. Land in the vicinity of the preferred route will be protected from development. The scheme is considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and will, therefore, be considered by the newly established Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC).

Further consultation with stakeholders will take place aiding the design of the Preferred Route which will be developed in more detail to identify the land that will need to be acquired to construct the scheme. The Preferred Route development will involve the design of junction layouts, drainage requirements, pedestrian and cyclist access and appropriate environmental mitigation measures.

Once this further consultation and Preferred Route development work has been completed the new IPC procedure requires the preparation and publication of a draft Development Consent Order and a draft Environmental Statement; a further round of consultation will then take place on these published documents. This consultation will give the public and key stakeholders a further opportunity to consider and comment on the more detailed proposals. The IPC will then consider all comments before coming to its final decision.

It is hoped that, subject to successful approval by the IPC and funding availability, construction work on the scheme could commence in or around 2016.

Further Information

Copies of the plan showing the Preferred Route will be given to the Local Authority for planning and development purposes. We have also prepared two reports:

- Report on Public Consultation - which summarises the responses to the Public Consultation; and
- Scheme Assessment Report - which explains the factors that determined the choice of route.

Further scheme details, including both of the above reports, can be obtained from the Highways Agency scheme website at:

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/22760.aspx>

Scheme Email address: A63CastleStreet.Hull@Highways.gsi.gov.uk



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If you need help using this or any other Highways Agency information, please call **08457 50 40 30** and we will assist you.

Got a question or comment?

08457 50 40 30*

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24 hours a day, 365 days a year

Safety at roadworks



The Highways Agency is working with the industry and road users to reduce the risks of working on the roads.

For the safety of roadworkers and all road users, when you are approaching roadworks:

- Keep within the speed limit – it is there for your safety.
- Get into the correct lane in good time – don't keep switching.
- Concentrate on the road ahead, not the roadworks.
- Be alert for works traffic leaving or entering roadworks.
- Keep a safe distance – there could be queues in front.
- Observe all signs – they are there to help you.

Live traffic information

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24 hours a day, 365 days a year

*Calls from landlines to 08457 and 08700 numbers can cost up to 8p per minute but are free from some landline providers; mobiles usually cost more.

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