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**A19/A1290 DOWNHILL LANE JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT DEVELOPMENT
CONSENT ORDER
NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT CONSENT
ORDER**

I am writing to inform you of changes to Highways England's proposed A19 Downhill Lane Junction Improvement project (the Scheme), which seeks to relieve congestion and improve safety at the A19/A1290 Downhill Lane Junction.

We are developing this Scheme under the Planning Act 2008 (the Act). This legislation requires us to make an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) which would authorise construction of the Scheme. We intend to make our DCO application early next year, in 2019.

The DCO would authorise improvements to the A19/A1290 Downhill Lane Junction in South Tyneside and Sunderland City Council. The main aspects of the proposed development include:

- Construction of a new bridge south of the existing bridge.
- Together with the existing bridge this will form a more traditional roundabout junction layout above the A19.
- The existing north-bound and south-bound A19 slip roads will be realigned to tie in with the new elevated roundabout arrangement.
- To the north of the junction, these will serve as link roads between Downhill Lane Junction and the proposed new Testos junction roundabout.
- The slip roads south of the junction will also be realigned but will continue to provide direct access to and from the A19.
- On the west side of the junction the A1290 will be re-aligned and to the east, the layout of Downhill Lane and Washington Road will also be amended to suit the new junction.
- Temporary access roads, temporary highway works, temporary construction compounds and work sites will be required during construction of the scheme.

The Applicant carried out statutory consultation in relation to the scheme between 11 September and 22 October 2017. As a result of ongoing design development since then, a change is now proposed to the Non-motorised User (NMU) routes to the north-east of Downhill Lane junction. The proposed change is summarised below along with the reasons for the change.

- a) Stopping up of the cycle-track approximately 265m in length between Bridleway B46 and Downhill Lane Junction proposed under the A19 / A184 Testo's Junction Alteration Development Consent Order 2018. This cycle-track is not required as part of the A19 Downhill Lane Junction Improvement Scheme as the desire line associated with the segregated NMU route, which is to be provided as part of the A19 Downhill Lane Junction Improvement works, renders the provision of the new cycle-track to be provided as part of the works for the A19 / A184 Testo's Junction Improvement Scheme, obsolete.
- b) Stopping up of the approximately 90m of re-aligned section of Bridleway B46. As a result of item a) above, the realigned section of Bridleway B46 is not required as part of the A19 Downhill Lane Junction Improvement works. The effect of this change is that the existing B46 bridleway is unaffected (as it would be under the A19 / A184 Testo's Junction Alteration Development Consent Order 2018).

In addition, as per the previous consultation in Spring 2018, with both the A19 Downhill Lane Junction Improvement Scheme and the A19 / A184 Testo's Junction Improvement Scheme expected to be under construction within the same timeframe, it is proposed that the A19 Downhill Lane Junction Improvement Scheme shares the use of the A19 / A184 Testo's Junction Improvement Scheme main site compound. However, with the A19 / A184 Testo's Junction Improvement Scheme expected to complete approximately 12 months prior to the A19 Downhill Lane Junction Improvement Scheme, it is proposed to extend the use of the A19 / A184 Testo's Junction Improvement Scheme main site compound for general storage, traffic management and office-based administrative purposes until the completion of the A19 Downhill Lane Junction Improvement Scheme. The impact of this will be fully assessed and outlined in the Environmental Statement.

This is a non-statutory consultation which provides you with an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the scheme. I therefore enclose with this letter a copy of the following materials:

- A19 Downhill Lane Junction Improvement Land Usage Plan
- A19 Downhill Lane Junction Improvement cyclist, walkers and other vulnerable users connectivity plan

Previous consultation materials can be found on our project webpage at <http://www.highways.gov.uk/a19-testos-downhill-lane>.

If you have any comments to make on these changes, we ask you to provide them **by 5pm on Wednesday 19 December 2018**. Comments should be sent using one of the following methods:

By email: A19DownHillLane@highwaysengland.co.uk

By post:
Thomas Place,
3 South,
Lateral,
8 City Walk,
Leeds,
LS11 9AT

If you have any queries about this correspondence, the Scheme or this consultation, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details provided.

Yours sincerely

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