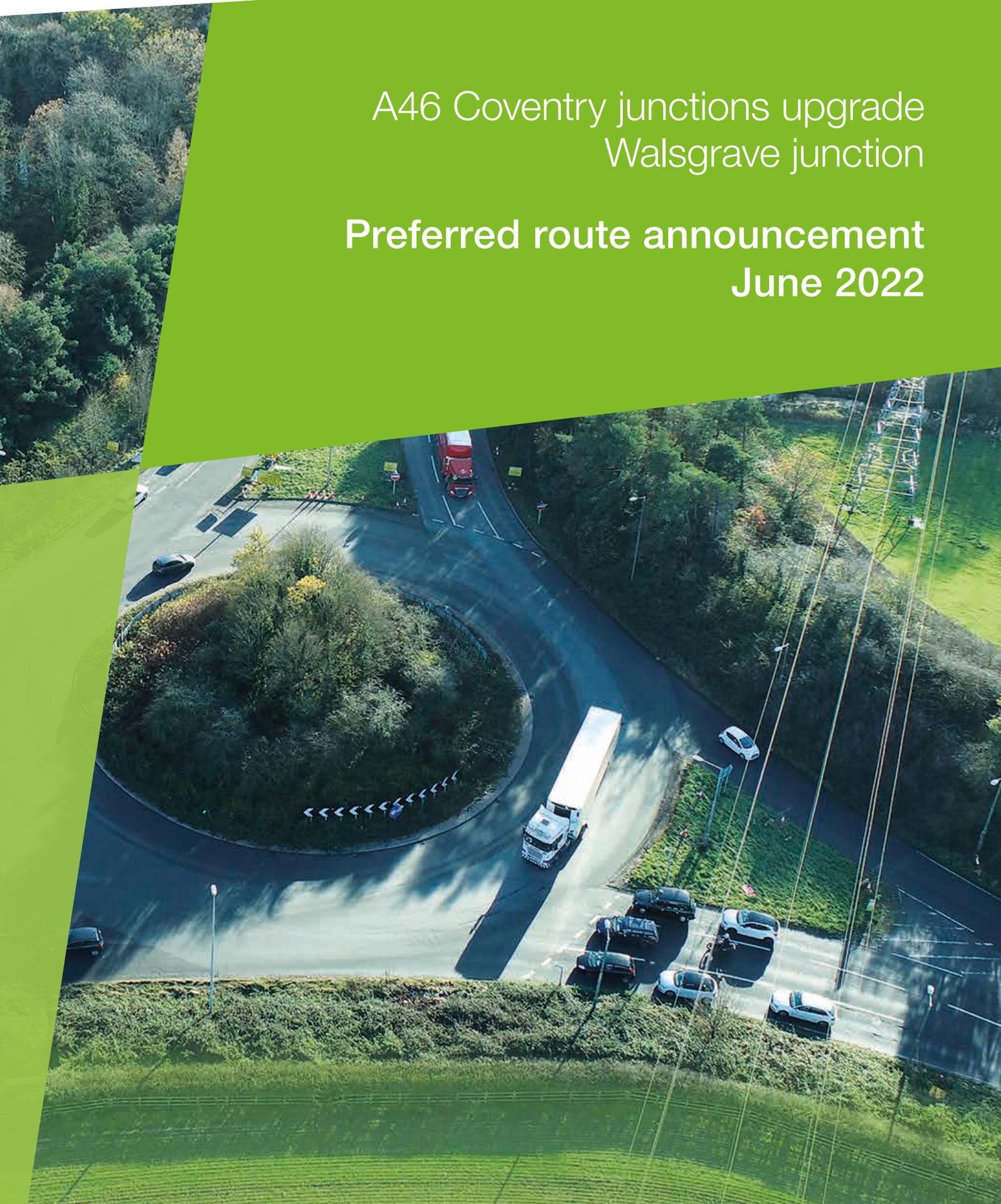


A46 Coventry junctions upgrade
Walsgrave junction

Preferred route announcement
June 2022



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Introduction

At National Highways, we believe in a connected country and our network makes these connections happen. We strive to improve our major roads and motorways - engineering the future to keep people moving today and moving better tomorrow. We want to make sure all our major roads are more dependable, durable and, most importantly, safe.

In the Midlands, we're investing in ways to increase capacity, improve connections and make sure journeys are as reliable as possible. The A46 Coventry junctions upgrade is a critical part of this investment and will help support economic growth locally and across the region. We held a public consultation in January-February 2022 about our proposals to upgrade the A46 Walsgrave junction.

The purpose of the consultation was to gather the views of the local community and stakeholders and give everyone an opportunity to have their say on our proposals. This brochure summarises the results from the public consultation and outlines the preferred route for the A46 Walsgrave junction which will be taken forward to the next stage of design.

Need for the scheme

The A46 is a strategic link between the East and West Midlands, connecting Coventry and Warwickshire to the motorway network. Current levels of congestion are having a serious effect on communities and businesses and would constrain future development in the area. The government's Road Investment Strategy (RIS2) 2020 - 2025 included a commitment to the A46 Coventry junctions scheme, which involves upgrading both Binley and Walsgrave junctions.

Upgrading the A46 Walsgrave junction will:

Support economic growth

The scheme will provide additional junction capacity in an area that is already busy and which is forecast to become much busier in the coming years as traffic increases.

Support the smooth flow of traffic

Congestion at Walsgrave junction means journeys are unreliable and take longer than they should. This will only get worse as more people are expected to use the road in the future. The scheme will enable traffic to flow more freely throughout the network. This will improve journey time reliability, making life easier and safer for residents, businesses, commuters, and local traffic.

What has happened so far

We're taking a phased approach to the A46 Coventry junctions upgrade. Work at Binley junction started in March 2020 and is due for completion in 2022. Alongside this construction work, we've been assessing various options to upgrade Walsgrave junction. Our work showed that only one option was viable and could deliver the required improvements at the junction.

Between 11 January and 14 February 2022, we held a public consultation on this viable option, known as Option 11. We also shared detail on the discounted options and explained why these were not viable. The purpose of the consultation was to provide the local community and stakeholders with the opportunity to have their say on our proposals and share their ideas, concerns, and local knowledge with us.

As part of the consultation, we used various methods to notify the community and stakeholders, including two postcards sent to approximately 10,000 addresses in the local area, press releases, social media, webpage updates and posters. We also worked with partners such as local authorities to share information through existing channels where relevant.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions that were in place at the time, we were unable to hold in-person consultation events. To replace these, we held three online public information events. Members of the community could also request a call back from a specialist within the project team as well as request hard copies of consultation documents to be posted to them free of charge.

The Preferred route

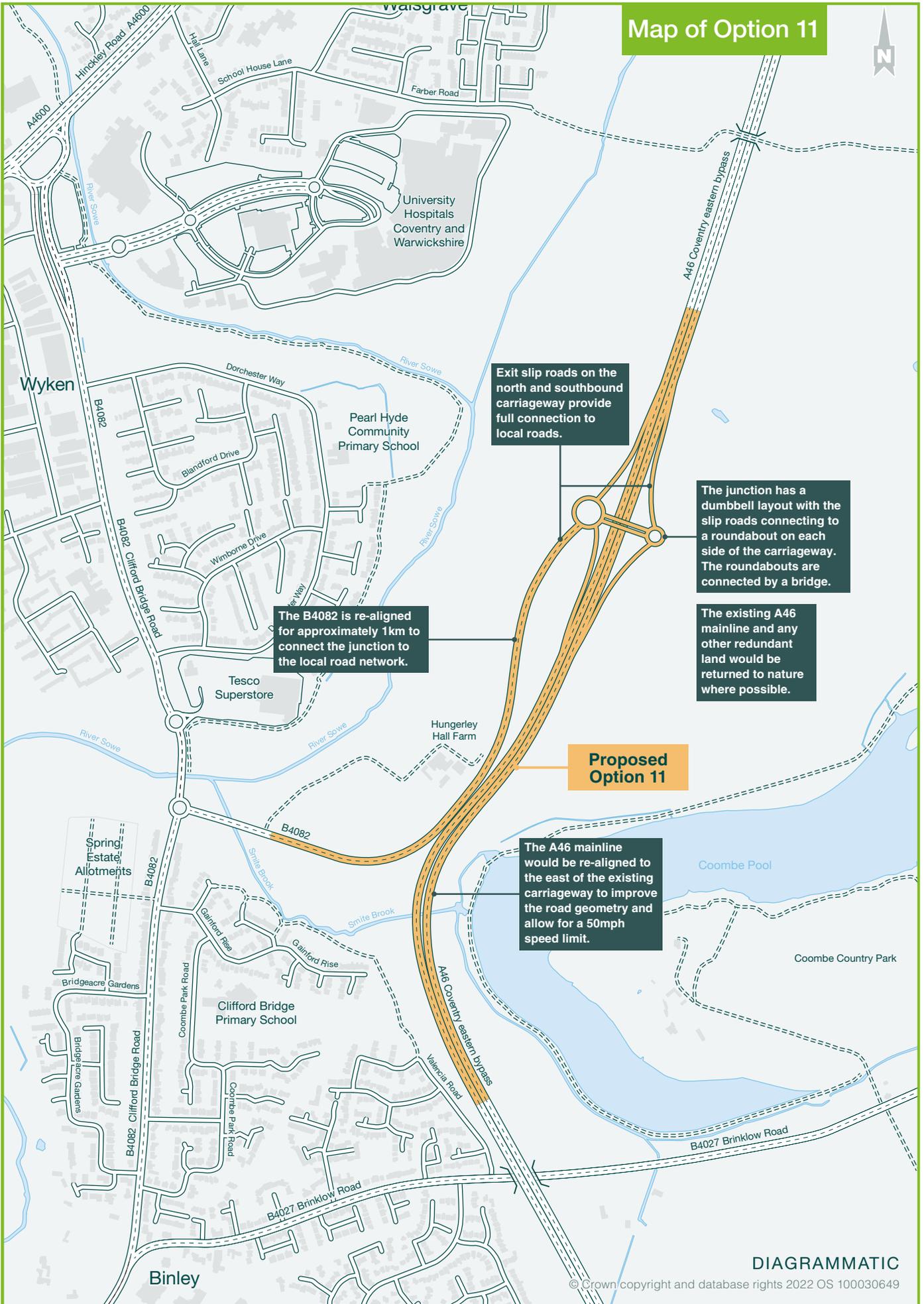
The feedback received during the consultation showed support for improvements at Walsgrave junction and support for Option 11 and we are therefore taking this scheme to the next stage of design development.

Option 11 would provide a fully grade separated junction approximately 800m north of the existing A46 Walsgrave junction. Exit and entry slip roads would be provided on both the north and southbound carriageway allowing full connection to the local road network.

The junction would be in a dumbbell layout with the slip roads connecting to a roundabout on each side of the carriageway with the roundabouts connected via an overbridge.



Map of Option 11



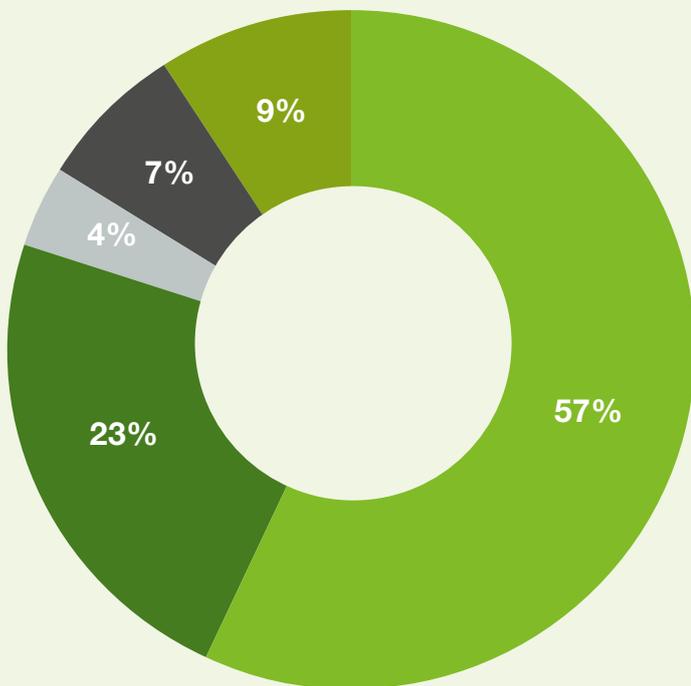
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Your feedback

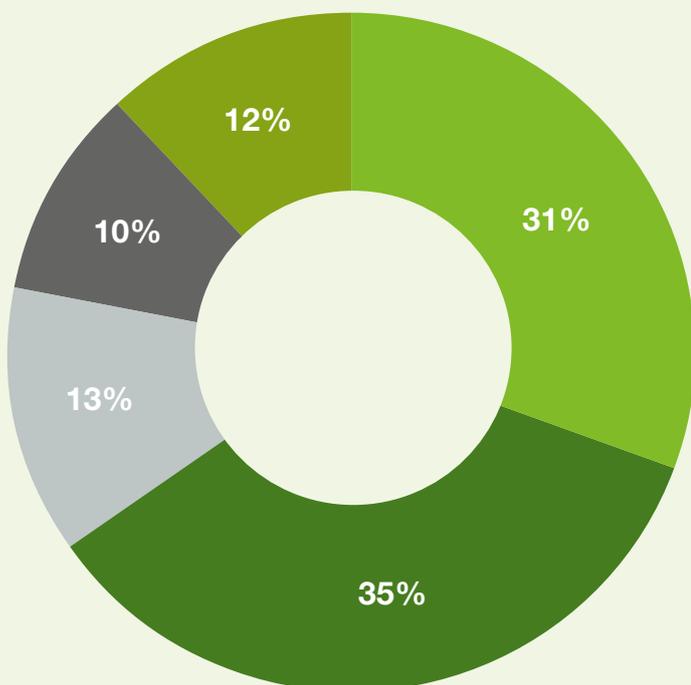
We received 121 responses to the consultation. This feedback was extremely important in helping us to understand how the local community currently uses the road and what people thought about our proposals for upgrading the A46 Walsgrave junction.

Respondents were asked to share their thoughts on the need for improvements at Walsgrave junction and on Option 11, as presented in the consultation. 80% of respondents agreed that improvements to the Walsgrave junction are needed, and 66% supported Option 11.



To what extent do you agree that improvements to the A46 Walsgrave junction are needed?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree



To what extent do you support or oppose Option 11?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose

What happens next

A number of comments were raised in response to the consultation, which we'll investigate further at the next stage of design. These include:

Access to the hospital

We're aware of aspirations for a direct link from the new junction to the hospital and this was a key theme raised in consultation feedback.

At the next stage of design, we'll work closely with University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire, Coventry City Council and other stakeholders to investigate the possibility of a link.

Walking and cycling provision

At the next stage of design, we'll work with the local authorities and other stakeholders to consider opportunities for walking and cycling improvements as part of our scheme.

Proposed 50mph speed limit

As we develop our design for the junction, we'll work closely with the police and other stakeholders to ensure the design of the junction maximises compliance with the proposed speed limit.

Impact on local road network

We'll work with Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council to minimise the effect on the local road network during construction and once the new junction is open.

Now we have announced our preferred route, we'll undertake the next stage of design development. This is when we'll develop more detail on the highway structures and overall design. It's also when the next stages of environmental assessments are completed and we'll look at the steps we can take to reduce any environmental impacts. During this stage of the scheme, we'll hold another public consultation, giving you the opportunity to comment on a more developed proposal.

It's likely we'll be required to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate to gain permission to build the scheme. A DCO is a special type of planning permission which is needed for a nationally significant infrastructure project. Further information on the DCO process can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>

It will be possible to participate in the Planning Inspectorate's examination of our application when our final proposal will be considered in detail.

Contact us

If you have any questions or comments please contact us via one of the options below:

Contact us on **0300 123 5000** or email us at: **A46CoventryJcns@nationalhighways.co.uk**

Visit our webpage: **<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/west-midlands/a46-coventry-junctions-upgrade/>**

Write to us: **A46 Coventry junctions upgrade team, National Highways, 2 Colmore Square, Birmingham, B4 7LJ.**

If you need help accessing this or any other National Highways information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.



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