

Section 48 - Planning Act 2008

A417 Missing Link

Notice publicising a proposed application for a Development Consent Order

Regulation 4 Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 and Regulation 13 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment "EIA") Regulations 2017.

Notice is hereby given that **Highways England Company Limited** ("Highways England") of Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GUI 4LZ proposes to make an application ("the Application") to the Secretary of State for Transport under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for a Development Consent Order ("DCO").

The Application is for the proposed A417 Missing Link scheme in Gloucestershire. The scheme's main proposals in summary are:

- 3.4 miles (5.5 km) of new dual carriageway connecting the existing A417 Brockworth bypass with the existing A417 dual carriageway south of Cowley;
- the section to the west of the existing Air Balloon roundabout would follow the existing A417 corridor. However, the section to the south and east of the Air Balloon roundabout would be offline, away from the existing road corridor;
- a new crossing near Emma's Grove for walkers, cyclists and horse riders including disabled users, which would accommodate the Cotswold Way National Trail;
- a new junction at Shab Hill, providing a link from the A417 to the A436 (towards the A40 and Oxford) and to the B4070 (for Birdlip and other local destinations);
- a new multi-purpose crossing in the region of 25m wide to provide essential mitigation for bats and for landscape integration. It will also further benefit from accommodating the Gloucestershire Way and provide an improved visitor experience;
- a new junction would be included near Cowley, replacing the existing Cowley roundabout, making use of an existing underbridge to provide access to local destinations such as Nettleton Bottom and Brimpsfield. The use of the existing underbridge would allow for all directions of travel to be made; and
- the existing A417 between the Air Balloon roundabout and the Cowley roundabout would be repurposed. Some lengths of this existing road would be converted into a route for walkers, cyclists and horse riders including disabled users. Other sections would be retained to maintain local access for residents and replacement common land.

The scheme is an EIA development, as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. An Environmental Statement will be submitted as part of the application. A Preliminary Environmental Information ("PEI") Report forms part of the consultation material.

Consultation on the proposals will take place from **Tuesday 13 October to Thursday 12 November 2020**.

At the time of writing, due to COVID-19, it will not be possible to host physical documents for inspection at local deposit points. Instead, Highways England will work with the host local authorities to make sure that copies of the consultation materials - including documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed development and the PEI Report - will be made available for inspection via their websites from **Tuesday 13 October to Thursday 12 November 2020**.

Online locations which will host information on how to access consultation documents		
Online location	Host authority	Website address
Cirencester	Cotswold District Council	https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/
Gloucester	Gloucestershire County Council	https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Borough Council	https://www.tewkesbury.gov.uk/

Copies of the consultation materials will also be available online free of charge from **Tuesday 13 October 2020** on the project website: www.highwaysengland.co.uk/a417-missing-link

Copies of the consultation materials may be requested in hard copy or on USB during the consultation period from Highways England using the email address, postal address or telephone number provided below:

- Email: a417missinglink@highwaysengland.co.uk
- Phone: 0300 123 5000 (this phone line is open 24/7)
- Post: FREEPOST A417 MISSING LINK

Individual paper copies of the consultation brochure, feedback questionnaire and Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) will be supplied free of charge, however, there may be a charge for paper copies of other consultation materials of up to £200. Please contact Highways England for further details.

Any person may comment on the proposals or otherwise respond to this publicity. Responses must be received between **Tuesday 13 October to Thursday 12 November 2020**.

Responses must be received no later than Thursday 12 November 2020 at 11.59pm. Responses received after this time may not be considered.

A consultation feedback questionnaire is available as part of the consultation materials and online at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/a417-missing-link. When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Please also confirm the nature of your interest in the scheme. Please supply any response using the contact methods below:

- Online: www.highwaysengland.co.uk/a417-missing-link
- Email: a417missinglink@highwaysengland.co.uk
- Post: FREEPOST A417 MISSING LINK

Highways England will consider and have regard to all responses when developing the application for a DCO once consultation has closed. Responses will form the basis of a Consultation Report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the Application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report.

If you would like further information about this notice, the consultation or the scheme, please contact the project team by using one of the contact methods provided above.

Michael Goddard
Senior Project Manager, A417 Missing Link
Email: a417missinglink@highwaysengland.co.uk