

M271 / A35 / A33 Redbridge Roundabout

Introduction

The M271 / A35 / A33 Redbridge Roundabout improvement is one of the 112 schemes in the Government's Roads Investment Strategy 2014, which states:

“Creation of dedicated left-turn lane for traffic leaving the M271 for Southampton docks and city centre, plus an improved roundabout layout for traffic from the docks turning onto the M271”

The primary objective of the scheme is to deliver cost effective improvements to the Redbridge Roundabout that relieve congestion and improve local and national economic growth, whilst minimising the impact on the environment.

This summary will provide an overview of the responses received during the consultation, and information on the next steps.

Public Consultation

A non-statutory public consultation was carried out during November and December 2016, asking for feedback on proposals to improve the M271 / A35 /A33 Redbridge Roundabout. A public exhibition of these proposals was held on the 25 and 26 November at Redbridge Community School.

Prior to the exhibition 982 brochures and questionnaires were distributed to local addresses in the area. This included residents, businesses and organisations. A questionnaire asking for peoples' views and comments on the scheme proposals was included in the leaflet. Information was made available on the Highways England website.

The consultation received 184 responses. This has provided insight to the decision of our preferred route.

Responses showed that 63% of car users and 38% of pedestrians and cyclists were dissatisfied with how Redbridge Roundabout currently operates.

76% agreed that the roundabout was often congested and has a poor standard of pedestrian and cyclist facilities, sharing safety concerns for all users. As such, there is widespread support for improvements to this location.

The most frequently made comments about the proposals were regarding pedestrians and cyclists. The main topics being:

- Access issues for cyclists and pedestrians (41%)
- Existing subways not being fit for purpose (18%)
- Proposed removal of the toucan crossing on eastbound A33 slip roads creating safety issues (16%)

Responses highlighted a clear objection to the proposed removal of the toucan crossings across the eastbound A33 slip roads, but supported the addition of the free flow lane from the M271 eastbound to the A33. Comments were also made showing concern that retaining the toucan crossing across the east bound A33 slip road in its current position would become unsafe as a result of increased traffic speed from the free flow lane.

Our Response to Comments Received

All comments have been carefully considered and the following preferred route has now been decided.

1. The free flow left turning lane from the M271 to the Port of Southampton was well supported and will go ahead. To accommodate both motorists and the concerns of cyclists and pedestrians, the toucan crossing on the east bound A33 slip road (towards Southampton) will be moved approximately 100 metres east. This relocation will make it more visible to drivers and give them time for to see and stop at the crossing. The changes will mean the route for pedestrians and cyclists is altered, but the crossing will be safer. This addresses the comments we received that the alternative pedestrian and cycle routes through the Roundabout were poor, that traffic speed may increase as a result of the proposed free flow lane between the M271 and the A33, and that drivers would have less time to see the crossing in its current location;
2. We will also relocate the toucan crossing on the westbound A33 slip road closer to the roundabout and extend the bus lane. This change will mean that the toucan crossing will operate within the existing traffic signals at the roundabout, reducing the number of traffic signals at the roundabout and improve journey times and traffic flow for all;
3. Many people were unhappy using the existing subways, and studies showed that the Southern subway was used the least by cyclists and pedestrians. Therefore the Northern subway will be refurbished and a new toucan crossing will be provided across the south - east side of the roundabout to link with the relocated westbound A33 slip crossing. The subway on the south side will then be permanently closed with the ramps and steps removed;
4. Replace the footbridge with a new wider one to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists (this is subject to further survey and design work and will be confirmed via our website);
5. Widening of the roundabout on the Southern side to create four lanes will also go ahead to increase the capacity of the roundabout by separating M271 and Totton traffic to help tackle congestion traffic.

Next Steps

You can read the consultation report in full with a map showing the preferred route at:

www.highways.gov.uk/M271A35Redbridge

We will now complete the detailed design and aim to start construction at Redbridge Roundabout by March 2020.

If you have any questions or would like further details please contact us:

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