



# **M3 Junction 9 Improvements**

## **Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)**

## 1. Introduction

Highways England operate, maintain and improve England's motorways and major A-roads – the strategic road network (SRN). The improvements planned at M3 Junction 9 are a critical part of our ongoing investment in the SRN and will improve journeys between South Hampshire and London via the M3 and the Midlands/North via the A34 (which also links to the principal east-west A303 corridor).

We are now at the Preliminary Design Stage of the M3 Junction 9 Improvement Scheme, developing the preferred design option taken forward following public consultation in early 2018. As part of the statutory process for developing schemes of this nature we are planning to hold a public consultation on the proposed scheme in July and August 2019.

This document is our Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and outlines our approach to consulting with the local community about this scheme. In line with Section 47 (6) of the Planning Act 2008, the final version will be published ahead of the consultation, providing details of how the interested groups and the local community can take part and how feedback will be used to influence the development of the project.

To make sure we approach our consultation in the very best way for the local community, we have consulted on this document with Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council as well as the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). These are the local authorities covering the area in which the scheme is proposed to be built and which may be significantly impacted by the scheme. We have considered feedback from these local authorities in developing the document in order to ensure the consultation is inclusive and proportionate to their local communities.

This document also provides information on the background to the scheme and how our application to build it will progress, as well as summarising our previous engagement on the scheme.

## 2. Our application

The M3 Junction 9 Improvement Scheme is being developed under the Planning Act 2008 as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and we are publishing this statement under Section 47 (6) (duty to consult local community) of that Act.

Under the Planning Act 2008, we are required to make an application to the Secretary of State for Transport (SoS) through the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build this scheme. The Planning Inspectorate will examine our application and the SoS will decide on whether the scheme should go ahead based on a recommendation made by the Planning Inspectorate. We anticipate that our DCO application for the scheme will be submitted in early 2020.

A key consideration for the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State for Transport when assessing our DCO application is the National Networks National Policy Statement (NNNPS). The NNNPS sets out the need for development of road projects

on the national networks and is the national planning policy against which decisions on major road projects will be made.

When we submit our application, the Planning Inspectorate must consider whether our consultation has been adequate. The best time for you to have your say to inform our final design on this scheme is now by taking part in this consultation.

You can find more information about the Planning Inspectorate and the Planning Act 2008 on the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> or by calling the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000. The full text of the Planning Act 2008 can be accessed at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents>.

### **3. The scheme**

M3 Junction 9 is a key transport interchange which connects South Hampshire (facilitating an intensive freight generating industry) and the wider sub-region, with London via the M3 and the Midlands/North via the A34 (which also links to the principal east-west A303 corridor).

A significant volume of traffic currently uses the grade separated, partially signalised gyratory (approximately 6,000 vehicles per hour during the peak periods) which acts as a bottleneck on the local highway network and causes significant delays for road users throughout the day. Northbound and southbound movements between the M3 and the A34 are particularly intensive, with downstream queues on the northbound off-slip of the M3 often resulting in safety concerns during peak periods.

The proposed improvements to the junction include free-flowing road links between the M3 and the A34 both northbound and southbound, with no need to enter the junction 9 roundabout to travel between the A34 and M3. The A34 southbound link will pass under the M3 with a 50mph speed limit. These changes will reduce congestion on the newly designed dumbbell road layout which make journey times more reliable, improve road safety and reduce air pollution. The scheme also proposes a continuous, segregated route for pedestrians and cyclists crossing the junction.

An initial round of public consultation on the scheme was held in early 2018 at which a proposal was put forward for consideration, along with details of three rejected options. More detail about this public consultation and your feedback to us can be found later in this document. The outcomes of this public consultation will help shape the details of the scheme in question.

Information about the scheme will be included in our public consultation brochure. This will include a description of the proposed improvements, detailed maps/plans, a summary of benefits and effects associated with the scheme and information about how the design has evolved since the previous consultation. The brochure will also provide details of the consultation process, including public exhibitions and how to respond to the consultation. Copies of the brochure will be available at local display and deposit locations during the consultation period and on the scheme web page. Further information is provided for you in this document.

## **4. Environmental Information on the scheme**

The proposed scheme is classified as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development under Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that an Environmental Statement must be prepared to accompany the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. We submitted a scoping request to the Planning Inspectorate in January 2019. The Planning Inspectorate provided a scoping opinion in March 2019, formally setting out its opinion of what information should be provided in our Environmental Statement. We will be carrying out an EIA in order to assess the potential environmental impacts of the scheme. The EIA is an ongoing process of gathering environmental information from surveys and other assessment work.

We will consult on preliminary environmental information as part of the statutory consultation in 2019. Information regarding this will be set out in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and will be publicly available as part of the consultation material. The PEIR will include information about the potential environmental impacts of the scheme and the measures proposed to reduce those impacts. The complete findings of our EIA will then be included in the Environmental Statement that will be submitted with our DCO application.

## **5. Our engagement on the scheme to date**

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) follow a two-step process for consultations.

We have already carried out our initial round of consultation with the local community. Our previous, non-statutory consultation was held between January and February 2018. This consultation is discussed in paragraph 5.1 below.

Building on your responses to this consultation, as well as additional engagement with stakeholders, statutory consultation will be carried out in July and August 2019.

### **5.1 Previous Consultation**

A proposal for the scheme was presented to the public for their views and comments during a non-statutory public consultation which ran from 9 January until 19 February 2018. This proposal - Option 14 - was presented as a preferred option, with details of three other rejected options also presented in the consultation brochure. Consultees were asked for views on whether they agreed with our decisions to eliminate these three options.

There was strong support in responses to the public consultation, both for the need to improve this junction and for the option we presented. The key concerns raised in relation to the scheme were:

- disruption for road users during construction, both for motorists and cyclists
- the environmental impacts of the scheme

- whether the new scheme will provide sufficient capacity to accommodate future growth in traffic
- the impact of the scheme on road safety
- the potential land-take from the South Downs National Park (SDNP)

The Preferred Route Announcement in July 2018 provided a brief summary of feedback to the public consultation and confirmed that Option 14 would be taken forward. It also identified three 'improvement opportunities', or common areas of concern which would require further detailed investigation:

- A34/A33 merging
- Junction 9 Non-Motorised Users (NMU) path
- Junction 9 to River Itchen footpath

More details, including the results of these consultations and how we decided to progress (Option 14) are included in the Public Consultation and the PRA leaflet, which are available to download from the previous consultation web page:

<https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m3-junction-9-improvements/>.

## **5.2 Early engagement that has informed this SoCC**

In advance of our upcoming statutory consultation, we will continue to engage with local stakeholders such as landowners, local authorities and statutory bodies.

Landowners have been contacted regarding environmental survey and assessment work requiring access to land, and one-to-one discussions are being arranged with those owners whose land may be impacted by the scheme. A series of workshops have been held with local authorities, the Environment Agency, South Downs National Park Authority, Historic England and Natural England to gather feedback in order to discuss the potential environmental impacts of the scheme and how best to reduce them.

We have also met with stakeholders representing those with an interest in walking, cycling and horse riding to consider their views in the development of the scheme. The outcomes of these conversations have helped shaped the proposed scheme that will be presented for public consultation.

## **6. Our upcoming statutory consultation**

### **6.1 Purpose of the consultation**

Our statutory public consultation is scheduled to start on 2 July and finish on 27 August 2019 - a period of 8 weeks. The purpose of the consultation is to present the scheme to the local community, including the changes and updates to the design developed since the Preferred Route Announcement. The consultation exercise will also help us understand what the local community and other stakeholders think about the scheme.

It is important that our consultation:

- enables the community to influence our proposals

- provides the opportunity to give feedback on the proposed design
- encourages the community to help shape our proposals to maximise local benefits and minimises any downsides
- helps our stakeholders, communities and customers understand the potential nature and local impact of our proposals
- enables potential mitigation measures to be considered and, if appropriate, built into the project before an application is submitted
- identifies ways in which our proposals, without significant costs, support wider strategic or local objectives
- is transparent and accessible to all our stakeholders

Comments and feedback will help us achieve these objectives. We will listen to everyone's views and consider opinions before we submit our DCO application.

## 6.2 How we will advertise the consultation

We will use the following methods to promote our public consultation:

Method	Detail
<b>Newspaper advertisements</b>	In accordance with Section 48 (1) of the Planning Act 2008 we will publicise the statutory consultation, including details of the PEIR, by publishing notices in the Times, the Hampshire Chronicle and the London Gazette.
<b>Media adverts and press releases</b>	In addition to our statutory notices, we will also advertise the public consultation by placing media ads in the Hampshire Chronicle. Adverts will be placed in local newspapers to promote the launch of the consultation period and will include details of consultation events.  Press releases detailing the consultation period and how the community and road users can get involved will be issued.
<b>Social media</b>	We will publicise the consultation via the Highways England: South-East Facebook page and the corresponding Twitter account (@HighwaysSEAST).
<b>Targeted mail</b>	We have developed a target area for the distribution of our consultation materials based on postcode areas closest to the scheme. This area, shown in Appendix A (below) covers residents and businesses who are most likely to be affected by or interested in the scheme. The area is consistent with that used in the previous consultation, except that we have enlarged the area to include residents of Shawford, Silkstead and Otterbourne to the west of Winchester. We'll let people living and

Method	Detail
	<p>working in this area know about our consultation by posting information in advance.</p> <p>A map of the area within which we will contact people about the consultation can be found in Appendix A.</p> <p>We will also write to all other stakeholders identified as having an interest in the scheme. This includes the local authorities listed in Appendix B.</p>

### 6.3 Who can take part?

Anyone who is interested in this scheme is welcome to take part in the consultation process. We welcome all views and will take them into account before we submit our final design.

This document makes particular reference to how we will consult the local community (in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008). However, we are also engaging with local authorities, the Environment Agency, South Downs National Park Authority, Historic England, Natural England and landowners.

We acknowledge that those living and working closer to the scheme location may have a particular interest and we wish to capture these views. As such, we have developed a local target area to advertise our consultation. A map of the proposed consultation target area can be found in Appendix A. More details about how we will advertise the consultation can be found above (6.2).

## 7. How will we consult?

During the public consultation we will use a number of methods to provide the community with information about the scheme:

Method	Detail
<b>Staffed consultation exhibits</b>	<p>Consultation events at local venues where members of the team will be available to answer questions about the proposals.</p> <p>Detailed information about the scheme will be on display for visitors to read and discuss. This will include information on the current state of environmental assessment and mitigation proposals.</p> <p>We plan to hold six of these events, mainly within the first four weeks of the consultation period. The dates and times proposed for these events are listed in the table below.</p>

Method	Detail
	Members of the project team will be present to discuss any questions or comments visitors might have about the scheme.
<b>Consultation web page</b>	A summary of the scheme, this SoCC, the consultation brochure, the online response form, PEIR, our application notice and a factsheet on the Planning Act will be available at: <a href="https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m3-junction-9-improvements-statutory-consultation">https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m3- junction-9-improvements-statutory-consultation</a>
<b>Consultation brochure</b>	A consultation brochure containing details of the scheme will be available online via the consultation web page.  As well as being available on request, paper copies of the consultation brochure will be available at the public exhibitions for those who attend to take away. Copies of the consultation brochure will also be available to view at local display/deposit locations.
<b>Council, community, business and interest groups meetings and briefings</b>	We will welcome the invitation to meet, where possible, with local council, business or community forums in the vicinity of our scheme.

The table below shows the proposed days, times and venues for our public consultation events. The last two of these will be held using Highways England's mobile consultation vehicle.

Day	Time	Location	Address
Saturday 6 July	10.30am – 4.30pm	Winchester Guildhall	The Broadway Winchester SO23 9GH
Wednesday 10 July	2.00pm – 8.00pm		
Friday 12 July	2.00 pm – 8.00pm	Kings Worthy Community Centre	Fraser Rd Kings Worthy SO23 7PJ
Saturday 13 July	10.30am – 4.30pm		
Saturday 20 July	10.30am to 4.30pm	Tesco Extra, Winall (car park)	Easton Ln, Winchester SO23 7RS
Saturday 3 August	10.30am to 4.30pm	Tesco Extra, Winall (car park)	Easton Ln, Winchester SO23 7RS



Any event that cannot take place due to circumstances beyond our control (such as severe weather conditions) will, where possible, be substituted with a similar event and promoted in the local press. Cancellations and rescheduled events will also be publicised using social media.

## 8. How to respond to the consultation

A consultation response form will be produced to help you provide comments on the scheme design. You will be able to respond to the consultation by:

- completing the online response form at [\[https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m3-junction-9-improvements-statutory-consultation\]](https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m3-junction-9-improvements-statutory-consultation).
- attending a consultation event where you can complete and submit a paper copy of the response form
- collecting a paper copy of the response form from one of our display and deposit locations and posting via freepost to FREEPOST M3 JUNCTION 9

Alternatively, if you do not wish to respond using the consultation response form, you can:

- respond by email: [M3junction9Improvements@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:M3junction9Improvements@highwaysengland.co.uk), or
- write to us: FREEPOST M3 JUNCTION 9

All responses must be received by the last day of the consultation period.

## 9. Information available for review

A number of documents will be made available for your information to help inform your consultation response. The consultation brochure will be available to view free of charge at display and deposit locations during the consultation period. This and other documents will be accessible online via the scheme web page. These documents will include:

- the public consultation brochure and response form
- the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the scheme non-technical summary. (Our consultation brochure will include a non-technical summary of the PEIR)
- a copy of the Section 48 Notice for the scheme

The full list of documents is in Appendix C.

### 9.1 Details of local display/deposit locations

Deposit/display Location	Opening times
Winchester Discovery Centre	9.00am – 7.00pm Monday to Friday, 9.00am – 5.00pm Saturday, 11.00am – 3.00pm Sunday

Winchester Tourist Information Centre	10.00am – 5.00pm Monday to Saturday
Winchester City Council – Customer Services Centre	8.30am – 5.00pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am - 4.30pm Friday
Kings Worthy Community Centre	Open during specific events
Winnall Community Centre	Open during specific events
M3 Moto Services, Winchester	Open 24 hours
A34 Road Chef Sutton Scotney Services	Open 24 hours
Tesco Extra – Easton Lane, Winnall, Winchester	Open 24 hours (Monday to Saturday) 10.00am – 4.00pm Sunday

In addition to the Statement of Community Consultation (this document), when it is published, display and deposit points will be publicised in media adverts for the public consultation, on the consultation web page.

## 10. Next steps

When the consultation period has ended we will review and analyse all the suggestions and comments received and produce a short summary of the feedback we received. This will be published in Winter 2019 on the consultation website.

We will carefully consider all responses received during the consultation and use this feedback to refine and improve our application before we submit it to the Planning Inspectorate. A more detailed summary of the feedback received will be provided in our Consultation Report, which will include a description of how our application was informed by the responses received, and outline any changes made as a result of consultation. The Consultation Report will form part of our submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination, and will determine whether our consultation has been adequate.

For more information visit our scheme web page where you can also sign up for email alerts whenever the web page is updated. If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact the project team directly by emailing [M3junction9Improvements@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:M3junction9Improvements@highwaysengland.co.uk).

## 11. Design refinements

It is possible that we may need to make changes to our proposals following the statutory consultation. If we judge these changes to be significant, or if new stakeholders are affected, we will undertake a further targeted consultation to ensure that those directly affected and other key stakeholders are given the opportunity to comment upon them. This will involve contacting the relevant stakeholders by letter or by direct mail. Consultees involved in any further consultation are likely to include:

- county councils and district councils, via planning leads
- parish councils, via chairpersons
- the local community
- other relevant consultees under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008

Design refinements may be packaged into a single consultation exercise, with the notification and consultation materials tailored to the relevant recipients for each proposed change. As with all our consultations, a design refinement consultation will be promoted via our website and open to anyone who wishes to take part.

## Your data, your rights

On 25 May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) became law. The law requires Highways England to explain to you – consultees, stakeholders and customers – how your personal data will be used and stored.

Highways England adheres to the government's consultation principles, the Planning Act 2008 and the Highways Act 1980 as required, and may collect personal data to help shape development of highways schemes.

Personal data collected by the project team will be processed and retained by

Highways England and its appointed contractors until the scheme is complete. In some instances consultation responses may also be sent to the Planning Inspectorate.

### Under the GDPR regulations you have the following rights:

- Right of access to the data (Subject Access Request)
- Right for the rectification of errors
- Right to erasure of personal data – this is not an absolute right under the legislation
- Right to restrict processing or to object to processing

### ■ Right to data portability

If, at any point, Highways England plans to process the personal data we hold for a purpose other than that for which it was originally collected, we will tell you what that other purpose is. We will do this prior to any further processing taking place and we will include any relevant additional information, including your right to object to that further processing.

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority, the Information Commissioners Office.

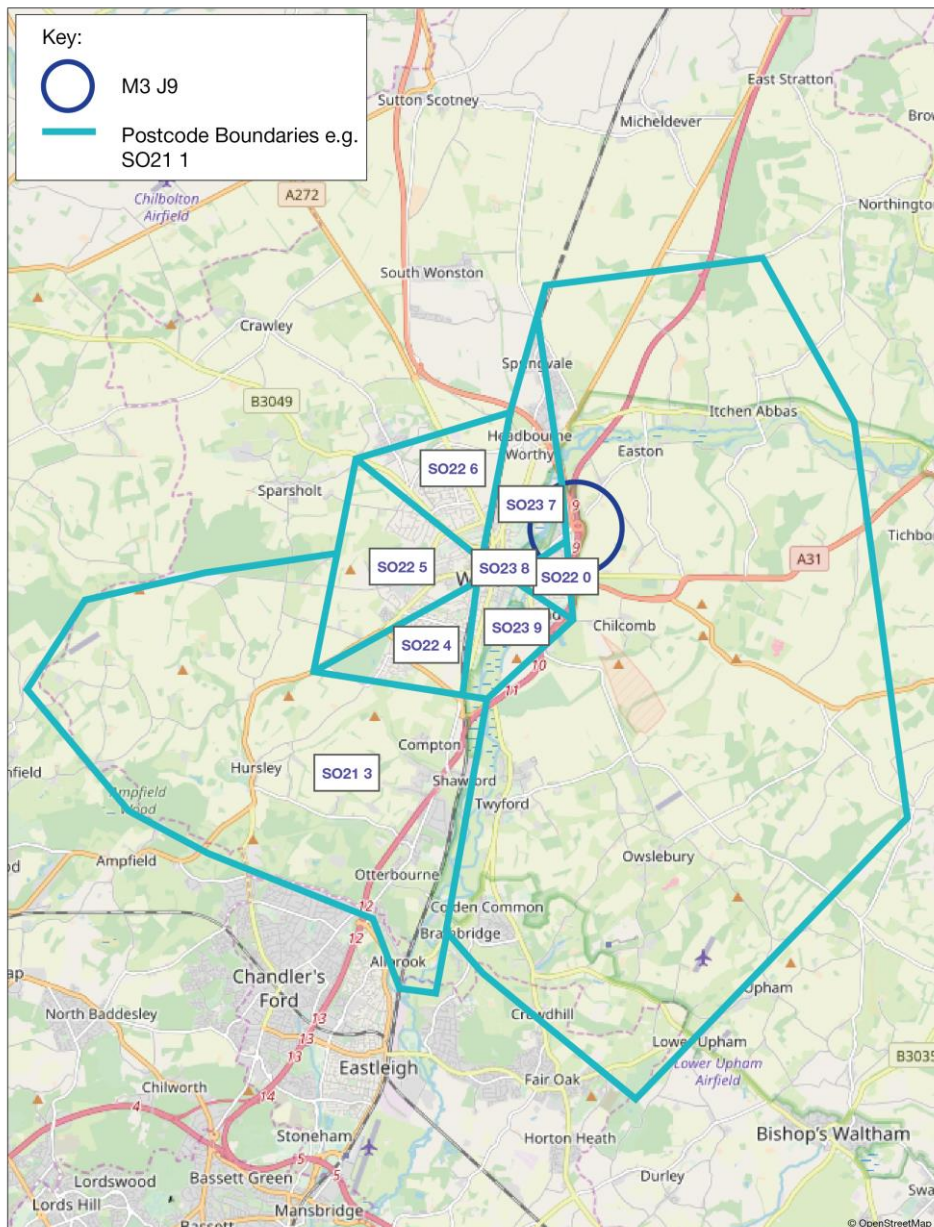


If you'd like more information about how we manage data, or a copy of our privacy notice, please contact:  
[DataProtectionAdvice@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:DataProtectionAdvice@highwaysengland.co.uk)

## Appendix A. Statutory public consultation written communication boundary

The area shown below is proposed as the distribution area for our statutory public consultation. Residents and businesses within this area will be sent a letter informing them of the consultation and how to respond.

This is consistent with the distribution area for the previous (non-statutory) consultation, based on postcode boundaries, but including the additional postcode boundary of SO21 3. A simple radial area (for example 3 miles) from the proposed works is not likely to adequately capture all affected residents as it would include many thousands of residential properties in Winchester City who may not use this junction to access the M3 or A34 and yet not include some of the surrounding villages residents that do use the junction on a daily basis.



## **Appendix B. Local Authorities**

### **B1. Local authorities affected by the scheme**

Winchester City Council  
 Hampshire County Council  
 South Downs National Park Authority

### **B2. Adjoining authorities**

Test Valley Borough Council  
 Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council  
 East Hampshire District Council  
 Havant Borough Council  
 Portsmouth City Council  
 Fareham Borough Council  
 Eastleigh Borough Council  
 New Forest National Park Authority  
 West Sussex County Council  
 Surrey County Council  
 Southampton City Council  
 Dorset County Council  
 Wiltshire Council  
 West Berkshire Council  
 Wokingham Borough Council  
 Bracknell Forest Borough Council

### **B3. Parish Councils**

Headbourne Worthy Parish Council  
 Kings Worthy Parish Council  
 Itchen Valley Parish Council  
 Chilcomb Parish Council  
 Winchester Town Forum

## **Appendix C. List of Documents available**

### **Documents available at display and deposit points**

- Consultation brochure
- Paper copies of response form

### **Documents available online**

- Published SoCC
- Notice of application
- Consultation brochure
- Online response form
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report
- Factsheet on the Planning Act and the DCO process
- Previous consultation report
- Technical Appraisal Report
- Scheme Assessment Report