

York Street Interchange



Information Leaflet

A public information leaflet explaining options for strategic road improvements at York Street, Belfast.

Public Consultation:
1st and 2nd June 2011



Introduction

The existing York Street junction is a key junction on the Strategic Road Network which links three of the busiest roads in Northern Ireland, the Westlink and the M2 and M3 motorways. It is the main gateway to Belfast from the north, provides access to the Port of Belfast and caters for many local traffic movements. The existing traffic signal controlled junction causes considerable congestion and long delays for the 100,000 vehicles that pass through it on a daily basis.

Roads Service has identified a number of options to remove this bottleneck on the Strategic Road Network. These options are termed A, B, C and D. In these options direct links between the Westlink and the M2 and M3 motorways are achieved by creating new flyovers over and underpasses below the existing Lagan Road and Dargan Rail bridges.

Scheme Objectives

Roads Service's objectives for all road schemes reflect the Government's overarching five objectives for transport, which are:

- Environment - to protect the built and natural environment;
- Safety - to improve safety;
- Economy - to support sustainable economic activity and good value for money;
- Accessibility - to improve access to facilities for people with disabilities and those without a car and to reduce severance; and
- Integration - to ensure that all decisions are taken in the context of the Government's integrated transport policy.

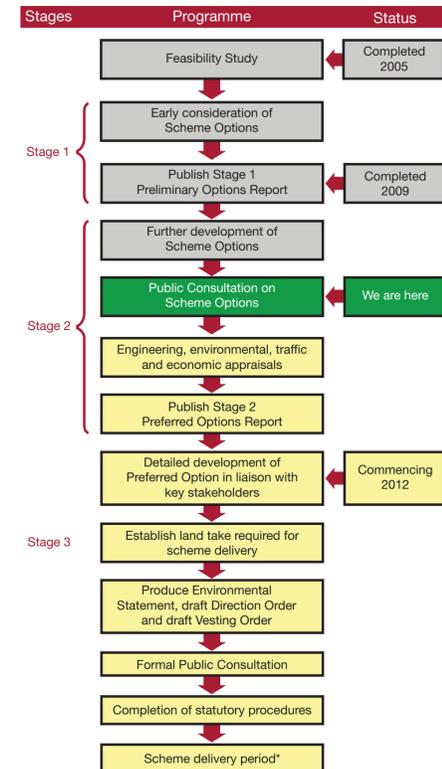
Based on these high level objectives, the following scheme specific objectives were also identified:

- to remove a bottleneck on the strategic road network;
- to deliver an affordable solution to reduce congestion on the strategic road network;
- to improve reliability of strategic journey times for the travelling public;
- to improve access to the regional gateways from the Eastern Seaboard Key Transport Corridor;
- to maintain access to existing properties, community facilities and commercial interests;
- to maintain access for pedestrians and cyclists; and
- to improve separation between strategic and local traffic.



The Scheme Assessment Process

Roads Service develops major road schemes in accordance with a three stage process defined in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. The stages of the scheme assessment process are detailed below:



What Happens Next

Following this public consultation, Roads Service will continue with the Stage 2 assessment to identify the environmental, engineering, economic and traffic advantages, disadvantages and constraints associated with the four options. Feedback following the consultation with the public and key stakeholders on the options will also be taken into consideration by Roads Service when it identifies its Preferred Option at the end of Stage 2. The results from the Stage 2 assessment process will be published in the Preferred Options Report.

Following the selection of the Preferred Option, Roads Service will commence the Stage 3 assessment to further refine the design of the Preferred Option in liaison with the public, the local community and the key stakeholders. Detailed environmental, engineering, economic and traffic appraisals on the Preferred Option will be completed as part of this assessment process.

At the conclusion of the Stage 3 assessment, Roads Service will prepare and publish the following documents to enable the scheme to proceed:

- the draft Direction Order;
- the draft Vesting Order; and
- the Environmental Statement.

Following publication of these documents the public and key stakeholders will have the opportunity to formally comment if they wish. Depending on the responses received Roads Service may decide to hold a Public Inquiry into the proposed scheme.

Further Information

For further information about the scheme, please contact:
Strategic Roads Improvement Team
Roads Service Eastern Division
Hydebank, 4 Hospital Road
Belfast, BT8 8JL
Telephone: 028 9025 3000
Email: roads.sriteastern@drdni.gov.uk
Department for Regional Development website:
www.drndni.gov.uk

Further information leaflets are available on the Department for Regional Development website which explain in more detail the process of road planning in Northern Ireland and offer guidance to owners and occupiers affected by new road construction.

Should you like this leaflet in an accessible format e.g. Braille, audiocassette, minority ethnic language etc., please contact the Strategic Roads Improvement Team at the above address.