

TRANSPORT FOR LONDON

M25 JUNCTION 28 IMPROVEMENTS – DEADLINE 1 SUBMISSION

21 JANUARY 2021

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This submission is made in response to the Examining Authority (ExA) Rule 8 letter dated 13 January 2021 and comprises the relevant information from Transport for London (TfL) requested at Deadline 1.
- 1.2 The submission covers TfL's response to the following requests for information:
- notification of wish to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (Section 2);
 - notification of wish to speak at an Open Floor Hearing (Section 3);
 - responses to Relevant Representations (Section 4); and
 - progressed Statements of Common Ground (Section 5).

2. Notification of wish to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing

- 2.1 TfL has raised concerns over permanent rights sought by Highways England through the Development Consent Order (DCO) application over parts of the A12 carriageway for which TfL is currently highway authority and for which TfL is proposed to remain as highway authority following completion of the scheme. These concerns are relevant to plots 1/1, 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 1/5, 1/6, 1/7 and 1/8. TfL is unclear why such rights are required. On this basis, TfL wishes to reserve the right to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing should this be necessary if this matter is not resolved.

3. Notification of wish to speak at an Open Floor Hearing

- 3.1 TfL notes the intention of the ExA to hold an Open Floor Hearing in week commencing 1 March 2021. TfL also notes the issues raised in several Relevant Representations which include concerns raised by local residents about the impacts of the M25 Junction 28 scheme and proposals to modify junctions to allow right turns from Woodstock Avenue to the A12 westbound carriageway or right turns from the A12 eastbound carriageway to Maylands Way.
- 3.2 TfL recognises these proposals may be raised at the Open Floor Hearing and is prepared to attend the hearing to respond to these issues should this be helpful to the ExA.

4. Response to Relevant Representations

- 4.1 TfL notes the issues raised in Relevant Representations, particularly:
- the need to minimise closures of the A12 eastbound off slip during construction, which we support;
 - concern over traffic impacts of the scheme on the A12/A127 Gallows Corner junction raised by the London Borough of Havering, a concern also raised by TfL;
 - the cumulative impacts of the M25 Junction 28 and Lower Thames Crossing schemes raised by both the London Borough of Havering and TfL;

- concerns raised about congestion on the A1023 Brook Street approach to M25 Junction 28 raised by Essex County Council;
- concerns over agreement being necessary with local authorities rather than consultation on some matters, concerns over the timescales provided for responses, and the assumption of deemed consent in the absence of a response, all raised by the London Borough of Havering and which are also relevant concerns for TfL;
- the traffic impacts of the scheme with specific reference to residents of Woodstock Avenue and proposals to modify junctions of the A12 (noted in Section 3 above), raised by several Interested Parties;
- the standard of footpaths alongside the A12 and across M25 Junction 28; and
- Network Rail's position that the scheme must not have a detrimental impact on the operation or safety of the railway and bridge over the M25, which we support.

4.2 TfL set out its position on several of these matters in its Relevant Representation. TfL's position will be updated in its Written Representation to be submitted at Deadline 2 and this will expand on its position on these matters where necessary in that Representation.

5. Progressed Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

5.1 The first draft of the SoCG between Highways England and TfL has been shared with TfL and comments have been provided. Highways England is considering these, and TfL does not expect them to have been included in the version of the SoCG submitted by Highways England at Deadline 1. TfL will continue to work with Highways England to progress the SoCG.