



Meeting note

Project name	Lower Thames Crossing (LTC)
File reference	TR010032
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	2 September 2021
Meeting with	Highways England/National Highways (the Applicant)
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

What has happened since we last met

The Applicant noted it has held a number of consultation events as part of the recent Community Impacts Consultation activity. The Applicant explained it had received letters from a number of Local Authorities (LA) requesting an extension to the consultation period to allow them to ratify their responses in accordance with their internal governance processes. The Applicant was discussing the practicalities of this proposal.

The Applicant explained it had updated the host authorities/statutory bodies that a re-submission was unlikely this side of Christmas, with the ambition of a submission in Q1 2022. The Inspectorate queried if consideration of the re-submission date is in any way driven by the recent issue of High Court judgements on A303 Stonehenge/ A38 Derby Junctions projects. The Applicant confirmed it is looking at those in parallel but these were not the drivers of its resubmission date.

The Applicant confirmed it will be updating all application documents to reflect the Applicant's name change to National Highways in due course.

Interrelationship DCO document

The Applicant outlined the new Interrelationship DCO document. The Applicant stated the new DCO submission document identifies interfaces between LTC and other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPS), or significant schemes where there was an interface. The document would ensure LTC manages the interface with other schemes. The Applicant stated it is a signposting tool to other DCO documents where

appropriate to avoid duplication and it is a live document that can be reviewed and updated.

The Applicant explained that the Inspectorate's s51 advice referred to interfaces with the London Resort NSIP (29 April 2021) and the Port of Tilbury (27 May 2021) and this has prompted the Applicant to review project interfaces and how they are communicated in the proposed application documents more generally.

The Applicant explained it is developing a robust selection criteria so only the most relevant schemes are included and schemes are to be selected using professional judgement. The Applicant stated its preference is for qualitative over quantitative methodology. The Applicant noted that projects to be included in the document are currently under review.

The Applicant detailed a worked example from the Interrelationship DCO document. The Inspectorate considered that it has the potential to be a useful document.

The Inspectorate queried if the interface agreement is a separate document, and will it be referenced in any draft DCO and does it supplement any provisions. The Applicant confirmed the interface agreement is a separate side agreement with Thurrock Power and it is likely to be referenced in the documentation, however it will not be submitted in its own right as it will contain confidential commercial terms.

Thames Freeport

The Applicant noted that discussions around the Thames Freeport could affect the submission date for LTC, noting the interest in potential future land use in the area.

Consultation Update

The Applicant provided an update to its current consultation. The Applicant stated as of 2 September 2021 it has received 2294 total responses at last count. The Applicant outlined key themes and issues that have been raised so far throughout its consultation. These topics varied from impacts on specific local communities to general traffic conditions.

The Inspectorate queried if it has received any feedback on quality or time allowed for the consultation. The Applicant confirmed that they had received some questions as to why there is more consultation. The Applicant stated it has received approx. 20 emails/letters about extension/consultation being over the summer period and these have been responded to.

Any Other Business

The Applicant noted that a draft of the preliminary navigation risk assessment will be sent to the Inspectorate to review in due course.