



Department
for Transport

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To: National Highways and all
Interested Parties

Date: 3 October 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by National Highways (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting development consent to construct a new offline bypass of dual carriageway road connecting the M67 Junction 4 to A57T Mottram Moor Junction, a new offline bypass of single carriageway connecting the A57T Mottram Moor to the A57 Woolley Bridge, two new junctions and five new structures, detrunking of the A57T from the M67 Junction 4 to Mottram Back Moor Junction, and safety measures and improvements to the A57 from Mottram Moor Junction to Woolley Lane Junction.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM THE APPLICANT AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

The Examining Authority submitted on 16 August 2022 a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings on the above application to the Secretary of State for Transport (“the Secretary of State”). In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has until 16 November 2022 to make a decision on the application. The Secretary of State seeks further clarification and information from the Applicant and others on the following matters.

- 1. Request for comments from Interested Parties on the Applicant’s response to the Secretary of State and updates from the Applicant**

The Secretary of State invites Interested Parties to provide any comments on questions 3 (Request for an update from the Applicant and Greater Manchester Combined Authority regarding the status of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan), 4 (Request for an update from the Applicant and Natural England regarding protected species licences) and 5 (the Applicant's comments on the progress of the emerging 'Places for Everyone' Joint Development Plan) of the Applicant's response of [14 September 2022](#) to the Secretary of State's consultation letter of [2 September 2022](#).

2. Request for clarification from the Applicant on the reference to "structure" in article 12(5)(b)

The Secretary of State notes from Sheets 2 and 3 of the Works Plans [[REP11-003](#)] that Work Nos. 32 and 33 are collectively described as "bridge structure and underpass". However, the two references to "structure" in article 12(5)(b) mention firstly "the "Mottram Underpass" and secondly to "the underpass" which would seem to refer back to the "Mottram Underpass", because there is no reference to any underpass in the descriptions of Work Nos. 5 and 6 in Schedule 1 to the draft Order or in the Works Plans.

The Applicant is asked to confirm whether this is a correct understanding of the intended application of article 12(5)(b). If this is not the case, the Applicant is asked to provide revised wording that is clearer.

The deadline for any response is 14 October 2022.

Responses to the matters outlined in this letter are best submitted by email to: A57LinkRoads@planninginspectorate.gov.uk If you will have difficulty in submitting a response by the consultation deadline, or difficulty in submitting a response by email, please inform the Case Team Tel 0303 444 5000.

The responses will be published on the project page for the A57 Link Roads DCO application on the Planning Inspectorate website as soon as possible after the above deadlines at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-west/a57-link-roads-previously-known-as-trans-pennine-upgrade-programme/?ipcsection=docs>

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision whether or not to grant development consent for the A57 Link Roads, and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours faithfully

Kate Atkins
Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit

