

A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling

Scheme Number: TR010039

Volume 5 5.2 Annex A: Options Consultation Materials

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

July 2021



Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

A47 Wansford to Sutton Development Consent Order 202[x]

5.2 CONSULTATION REPORT ANNEX A OPTIONS CONSULTATION MATERIALS

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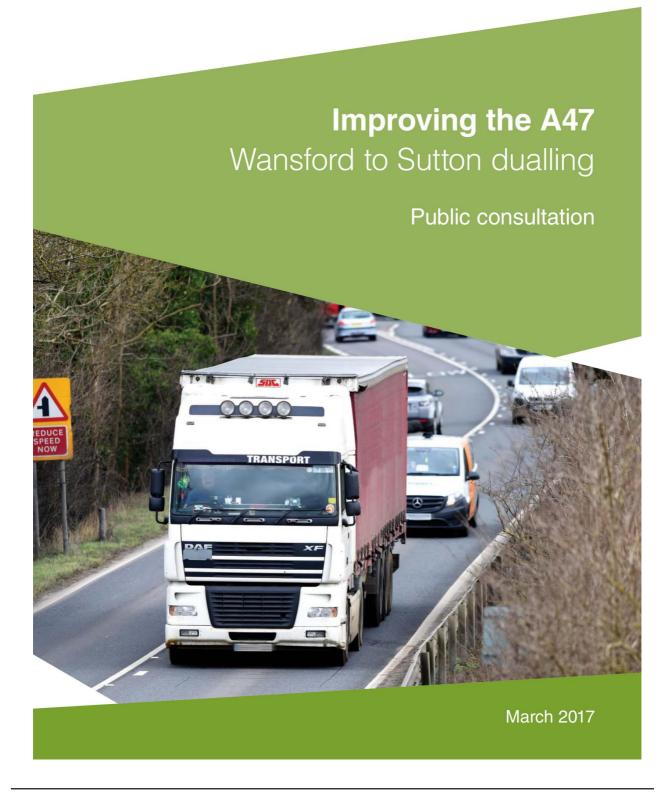
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1 CONSULTATION BROCHURE







Improving the A47 corridor:

We are improving the A47 around Great Yarmouth to create better

1. Introduction

About us

Highways England is the government owned company charged with operating, maintaining and improving England's motorways and major A roads. Formerly the Highways Agency, we became a government owned company in 2015.

About the A47 corridor improvement scheme

In 2014 the government published the Road Investment Strategy (RIS) setting out a £15.1 billion investment for 2015-2020 to improve journeys on England's motorways and major A roads.

The RIS includes a package of 6 schemes to improve journeys on the 115 mile section of the A47 between Peterborough and Great Yarmouth. Together, the proposals will relieve congestion and improve the reliability of journey times for drivers.

The A47 trunk road forms part of the strategic road network and provides for a variety of local, medium and long distance trips between the A1 and the east coast. The corridor connects the cities of Norwich and Peterborough, the towns of Wisbech, Kings Lynn, Dereham, Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft and a succession of villages in what is largely a rural area.

The schemes include converting almost 8 miles of single carriageway to dual carriageway and making improvements to junctions across the route.

The 6 schemes are:

- A47 Wansford to Sutton dualling
- A47 Guyhirn junction improvement
- A47 North Tuddenham to Easton dualling
- A47 Blofield to North Burlingham dualling
- A47/A11 Thickthorn junction improvement
- A47 Great Yarmouth junction improvements (Formerly A47/A12 junction enhancements)

We are consulting on all 6 schemes at the same time. In this brochure, you can find out about A47 Wansford to Sutton dualling. To find out more about the other schemes or request a copy of the consultation brochure, please visit:



www.highways.gov.uk/a47Improvement



A47WansfordtoSuttonRIS@ highwaysengland.co.uk

In total, over £2 billion is being invested in the East of England to create better and safer journeys across the region.

We want your views

We are consulting on proposals to improve the A47 between Wansford and Sutton to dual carriageway standard. Our proposals will create a new dual carriageway that will relieve congestion, provide extra road space, improve safety and help provide a free-flowing network.

This consultation provides you with an opportunity to view, discuss and help shape our proposals and help us understand what is important to our customers and local communities before the selection of a preferred route.

The project team has been working closely with local authorities to ensure that all proposals align with local/regional aspirations for growth and movement of people within the local areas.

There will be a further statutory public consultation before any scheme is finalised.

The consultation will run for 6 weeks from Monday 13 March to Friday 21 April 2017.

2 Need for the scheme

Approximately half of the A47 is already dual carriageway standard but the section between Wansford and Sutton is still single carriageway. This acts as a bottleneck, resulting in congestion and leading to longer and unreliable journey times. The poor performance of this section of the A47 has also contributed to a poor safety record.

There are a number of reasons for these problems. Our investigations to date have highlighted these as:

- Difficulty of accessing and crossing the A47
- Standard of the road and junctions
- Traffic levels outgrowing the capacity of the road, causing tailbacks and delays
- Limited opportunities for overtaking slower moving vehicles
- Development in the local area with potentially more vehicles on the road

If nothing is done to improve capacity and connectivity, these delays are forecast to get worse in future years.

In developing this scheme we aim to address these issues by upgrading this section of the A47 to a high quality dual carriageway.

The scheme will support economic growth by making journeys safer and more reliable

3. Scheme objectives

The objectives of the proposed Wansford to Sutton dualling scheme are:

Supporting economic growth

Contributing to regeneration and sustainable economic growth by supporting employment and residential development opportunities. The scheme aims to reduce congestion-related delay, improve journey time reliability and increase the overall capacity of the A47.

A safe and serviceable network

Improving road safety for all road users by designing to modern highway standards appropriate for a major A road.

A more free-flowing network

Increasing the resilience of the road in coping with incidents such as collisions, breakdowns, maintenance and extreme weather. The route between Wansford and Sutton will be more reliable, reducing journey times and providing capacity for future traffic growth.

Improved environment

We will protect the environment by minimising adverse impacts and where possible, improving the environmental effects of transport for those living along the existing A47. We will do this by reducing the impact of new infrastructure on the natural and built environment.

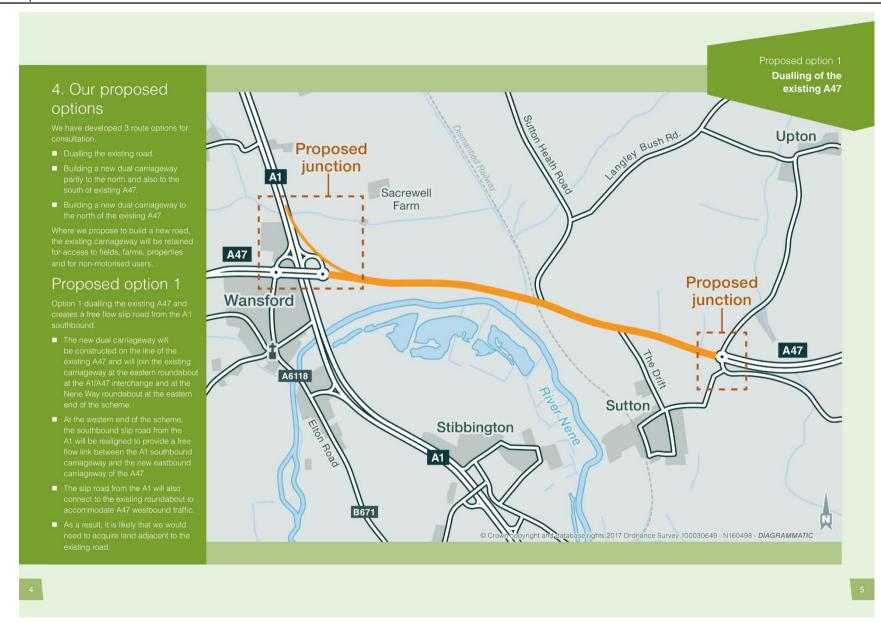
An accessible and integrated network

We will ensure our proposals take into account local communities and access to the road network, providing a safer route between communities for cyclists, pedestrians, and other non-motorised groups.

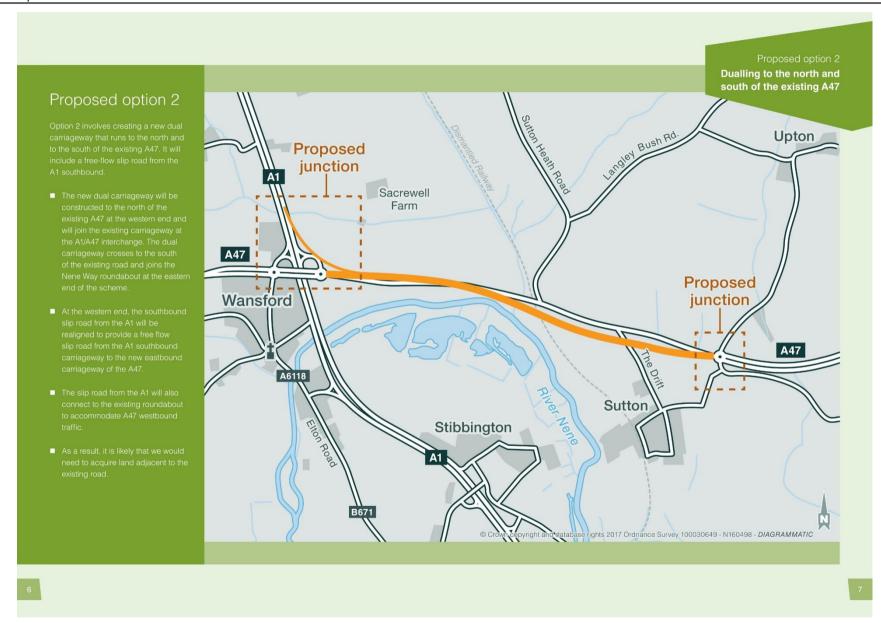
Value for money

Ensuring that the scheme is affordable and delivers good value for money.

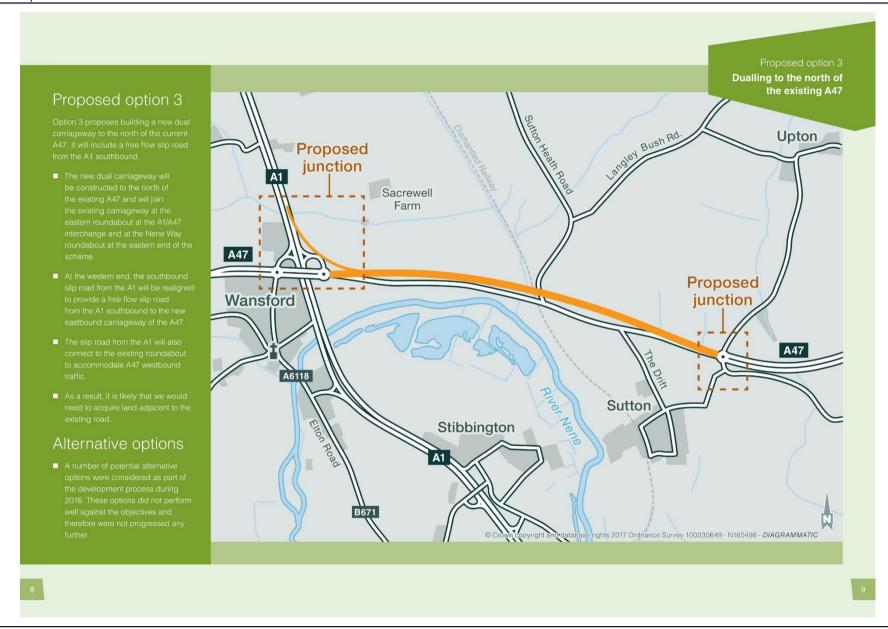




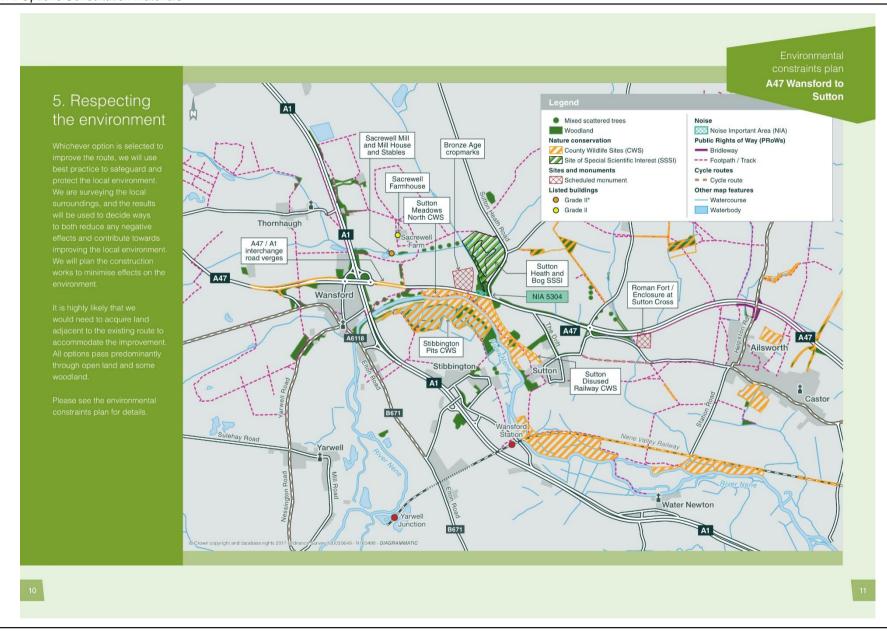














Local communities

The public rights of way network will remain in place or alternatives will be provided. Pedestrian routes will be maintained around the existing carriageway or replaced where required.

We will use earth mounds and planting where possible to help screen the route from nearby properties. New lighting will be designed to minimise light pollution.

Landscape

To reduce the visual impact of the scheme, we will plant areas of trees, shrubs and grassland. Where possible, we will use native species that are local to the area.

Wildlife and nature conservation

The study area for the scheme includes a range of habitats that support different plant and wildlife species. We are currently carrying out ecological surveys in the area to identify any evidence of protected species, including bats, badgers, water voles, great crested newts, white-clawed crayfish, reptiles and birds.

If we find any evidence of protected species, we will include methods at the design stage to reduce any impacts of the scheme. This work will be carried out in consultation with Natural England and Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust as well as local interest groups.

We will pay to nearest to the North At Stamford Country (At 1139) London (At)

The design will allow for habitat replacement and create opportunities for new habitats.

Historic environment

The area contains a variety of features of cultural heritage importance, including a scheduled monument, archaeological sites and listed buildings.

We will include various measures in the scheme design to reduce the impacts on these areas.

Air quality

Our initial assessment shows that there will be no significant changes in air quality for the residential properties in the area. Most residential areas are expected to experience improved air quality as a result of the scheme, due to improved traffic flows.

We will monitor the effects on air quality in the area with the aim of meeting national air quality objectives.

Noise

Our initial noise assessment shows that there should be no significant changes in noise near the existing route. We will use low noise road surfacing and the detailed design will include further assessments to determine whether any additional noise mitigation, such as barriers, is required.

We will pay particular attention to the properties nearest to the proposed route.

Water

We will provide appropriate drainage to deal with the surface water from the road. Existing watercourses and groundwater will be protected with balancing ponds, pollution control devices and water treatment features.

6. Next steps

Preferred route

This consultation is your opportunity to express your views on the proposals at an early stage of development and to inform the selection of a preferred route. After the consultation ends, we will publish a report summarising the responses. Following this, we will make recommendations for further development of the scheme.

Subject to the findings of the consultation, a preferred route announcement will be made in late 2017 and the pre-application stage of the development consent process will begin.

Development Consent Order application

This scheme is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008. As such, we are required to make an application for a Development Consent Order in order to obtain permission to construct the scheme. The application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate who will examine the application in public hearings and then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport who will decide on whether or not the project will go ahead.

We currently intend to make our application by summer 2018. Prior to the application, you will have another opportunity to have your say with a public consultation on our preliminary design proposals.

More information about the Development Consent Order process can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website:

http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk

7. What happens next?

We are at the early stages of this project and there are many stages to come. This includes another opportunity to have your say before a final decision is made Your views are important to us. We will consider all responses to this consultation. Your feedback will help inform the decision on the preferred solution.

Below are the key milestones and the steps we plan to take before we start construction:

Summer 2017

We will analyse the consultation responses and undertake additional technical work

Autumn 2017

If there is a compelling case for the scheme and a suitable option is selected, a preferred route will be announced

Autumn 2017

We will engage with communities, land owners and stakeholders on the preferred route and design

Winter 2017/18

Statutory public consultation on the preferred route

Summer 2018

Submit an application for a Development Consent Order (Planning Application)

Winter 2019/20

Decision on the Development Consent Order (estimated)

Construction starts*
(estimated)

*Construction on the A47 corridor improvement is likely to start in spring 2020. We may need to sequence the improvements along the route to manage the disruption to customers and local communities.



8. Share your views

This is the first stage in our consultation process and we would like to know what you think about the proposed options. We will listen to your views and publish a Consultation Report to inform the selection of a preferred route.

Join us at one of our events. Members of our team will be on hand to answer your questions.

Public information events

Venue	Date	Time
Haycock Hotel, Wansford	Thursday 23 March	3pm - 8pm
Sutton Church	Friday 24 March	10am - 5pm
Sacrewell Farm Centre	Saturday 25 March	10am - 2pm

9. How to respond

Please only respond using one of the following channels, which have been set up for the specific purpose of this consultation:



Online: www.highways.gov.uk/a47Improvement



Email: A47WansfordtoSuttonRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk



Post: You can write to us or post paper copy responses to: FREEPOST A47 Wansford to Sutton

We cannot accept responsibility for ensuring responses that are sent to addresses other than those described above are included in the consultation process. All responses must include at least your postcode. Please state whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. If responding on behalf of an organisation, please make it clear who the organisation represents and, where applicable, how the views of members were assembled.

The final date we will accept consultation responses will be no later than 11:59pm on Friday 21 April 2017.

For further information about the scheme or this consultation, please cal the Highways England Customer Contact Centre on **0300 123 5000**.

Confidentiality and data protection Information provided in response to this For more information about what consultation, including personal information, information can be requested under the may be subject to publication or disclosure FOIA, see: in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/officialof Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the information Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). Highways England will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA If you want any information that you provide and in the majority of circumstances this to be treated as confidential, please be aware will mean that your personal data will not that under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code be disclosed to third parties. of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence.



If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.





2 CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM



Improving the A47

Wansford to Sutton dualling **Questionnaire**

13 March to 21 April 2017



Please read the consultation document before completing this questionnaire.

If you're returning this to us by post, please use the enclosed pre-paid envelope.

The consultation will run from Monday 13 March to Friday 21 April 2017.

The closing date for responses is 11.59pm on 21 April 2017.



A47 Wansford to Sutton Annex A: Options Consultation Materials



Please complete your contact details below.		4. How close do y Sutton route?	ou live to the A47 Wansford to	5. Do you think improvements are needed to the A47 Wansford to Sutton route?
Title:				
Name:		Under 1 mile	Between 1 Greater than and 5 miles 5 miles	Yes No
Address:				
Postcode:				
Telephone (optional):		Please explain the	e reason for your response to ques	tion 5:
Email (optional):				
Are you responding on behalf of another organisatio	n? If yes, please state below.			
The information you provide will be kept in a secure environment only accessible by the project. Your personal information will not be shared with any other individuals or organized finite or the provided of the provided in the provided of the provided provided in the provided prov	nisations beyond the provision set out in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 be used in support of the purpose specified in the survey. Personal details			
Please tick the appropriate boxes				
1. Are you? (tick all that apply) 🗸	An equestrian			
A driver/motorcyclist	A local resident			
A cyclist	A local business (including farm)	6. What is your vi	ew of the proposed option 1 for the	A47 Wansford to Sutton route?
A pedestrian	A visitor to the area	Strongly in	Somewhat in Ne	utral Somewhat Strongly
A recreational walker	Other (please state)	favour	favour	against against
About the scheme		Are there any reas	sons for your choice? Please use t	the space below for comments.
2. How often do you travel through the A47	For what purpose do you travel through the A47 Wansford to Sutton route?			
Daily Weekly Monthly Not at all	Local distance journeys journeys Commuting			

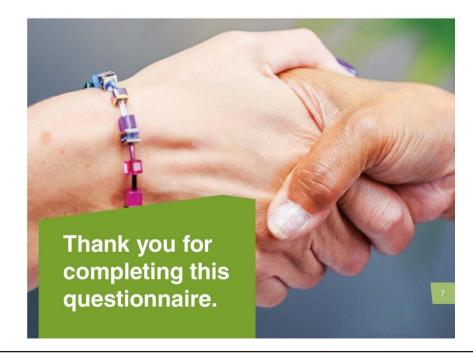


Strongly in	Somewhat in	Maydyal	Somewhat	Strongly	Wansford to Su		1	
favour	favour	Neutral	against	against	Yes	No		
		1						
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nat is your view	of the proposed option	n 3 for the A47 Wan	sford to Sutton route?			space below if yo	ou wish to make furthe	r comments (or use additional sh
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Strongly in favour	Somewhat in favour	Neutral	Somewhat against	Strongly		space below if yo	ou wish to make furthe	r comments (or use additional sh



Equality and diversity
To ensure we are meeting our diversity guidelines please help us by filling in the following section of this questionnaire only if you are not responding on behalf of an organisation. You are not obliged to complete this; the information will only be used by Highways England to monitor its effectiveness at consulting with the whole community. This information will not be used for any other purpose and in publishing the results individuals will not be identified. (Please tick the appropriate boxes)
10. Age
16-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56-65 66-75 75+
11. Gender
Male Female Prefer not to say
12 Ethnic group
British or Mixed British
English Irish Scottish Welsh Other (specify if you wish)
South Asian
Bangladeshi Indian Pakistan Other (specify if you wish)
Black African Caribbean Other (specify if you wish)
African Caribbean Other (specify if you wish)
East Asian
Chinese Japanese Other (specify if you wish)

Any other ethnic background	
Please specify if you wish	Prefer not to say
	e a disability?





If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

You can submit your response:

Please only respond using one of the following channels, which have been set up for the specific purpose of this consultation:



Online: www.highways.gov.uk/a47Improvement



Email: A47WansfordtoSuttonRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk



Post: You can write to us or post paper copy responses to:

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The final date we will accept consultation responses will be no later than 11:59pm on Friday 21 April 2017.

For further information about the scheme or this consultation, please call the Highways England Customer Contact Centre on **0300 123 5000**.

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3 PREFERRED ROUTE ANNOUNCEMENT UPDATE



Preferred Route Announcement A47 Wansford to Sutton

August 2017



Improving the A47

The A47 is an important connection linking the cities of Norwich and Peterborough, the towns of Wisbech, Kings Lynn, Dereham, Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft and a succession of villages in what is largely a rural area.

As part of a £15.1 billion investment to improve journeys on England's major A roads and motorways, the Government announced a package of 6 schemes on the 115 mile stretch of the A47 between Peterborough and Great Yarmouth. Together, the proposals will relieve congestion and improve the reliability of journey times for drivers.

The schemes include converting almost 8 miles of single carriageway to dual carriageway and improving key junctions along the route.

Improving the A47 from Wansford to Sutton

The section of the A47 between Wansford and Sutton is still a single carriageway. This acts as a bottleneck, resulting in congestion, leading to longer journey times and a poor safety record. The proposed scheme will relieve congestion, reduce journey times, encourage economic growth and improve our customers' experience.

Scheme objectives:

- Supporting economic growth
- A safe and serviceable network
- A more free-flowing network
- Improved environment
- An accessible and integrated network
- Value for money





Public consultation

From 13 March to 21 April, we ran a public consultation to gain people's feedback on our proposals and help shape our plans at an early stage of the scheme's development.

We publicised the consultation widely, with posters, leaflets and letters to local communities and stakeholders as well as gaining coverage in the press and other media. Information was available on our website, public libraries and community halls.

There were also 3 exhibitions for the public to attend and view our plans.

Options taken to public consultation

We presented 3 options to upgrade the single carriageway to a high-quality dual carriageway between Wansford and Sutton.

The options were:

- Option 1 dualling the existing A47.
- Option 2 building a new dual carriageway partly to the north and also to the south of existing A47.
- Option 3 building a new dual carriageway to the north of the existing A47.

Responses to the public consultation

Over 171 people attended the exhibitions and we received 170 responses to the consultation.

Around 86% supported the need to improve the section and agreed our proposals would be beneficial in reducing congestion and improving journey times.

Concerns were raised about access to Sacrewell Farm and the villages of Wansford and Sutton, the need for infrastructure to support the local cycling community and the potential for noise and disruption to traffic during construction.

Going forward, we will consider your concerns and responses and address them as part of the final design and construction plan.



The Preferred Route - Option 2

Having reviewed the feedback following the consultation, and completed a number of other assessments, we are proceeding with an amended version of Option 2 presented at consultation.

Option 2 solves the main traffic and safety problems along the route. It has significant advantages in terms of environmental impact when compared to Option 3 and will have less impact during construction when compared to Option 1.

Key concerns raised in the consultation have influenced an amendment to the original proposal. The new dual carriageway will be moved as close as possible to the southern edge of the existing A47 at the eastern end of the scheme. This would:

- Increase the distance from the new road to both the River Nene and the village of Sutton.
- Reduce the amount of land take required.
- Allow for the easiest connection of existing side roads to the new A47.
- Allow for most of the existing A47 to remain in place for local traffic and non-motorised groups such as pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians.

This will now be developed further before statutory consultation.







What happens next?

Our team will continue to develop the design of the preferred route, working closely with key stakeholders including local authorities, parish councils, statutory environmental bodies and the emergency services. We will also contact any affected land owners to discuss the details of the scheme and how it may impact on their property or interests.

This scheme is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008. As such, we are required to make an application for a Development Consent Order in order to obtain permission to construct the scheme. The application will be made to

the Planning Inspectorate who will examine the application in public hearings and then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport who will decide on whether the project will go ahead.

Prior to the application, you will have another opportunity to have your say during a public consultation on our detailed design proposals.

More information about the Development Consent Order process can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website:

http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk

View a hard copy of the public consultation report at:

Further information

For further information on the scheme and copies of the public consultation report:

A47WansfordtoSuttonRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk



0300 123 5000



http://www.highways.gov.uk/a47Improvement

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