



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	M3 Junction 9 Improvement
<b>File reference</b>	TR010055
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	20 August 2021
<b>Meeting with</b>	Highways England
<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project Update Meeting
<b>Circulation</b>	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.

### Preliminary consultation feedback – key themes

The Applicant confirmed that statutory consultation had taken place between 27 May and 8 July 2021. The Applicant was in the process of analysing consultation responses and organising follow up meetings with key stakeholders. The Applicant stated its approach to the consultation was digital and included webinars/ telephone surgeries. As a result of the consultation, the Applicant explained there are potential design changes.

The Inspectorate queried what the key features of the responses were. The Applicant explained that a proportion of stakeholders had requested enhancements to walking, cycling and horse-riding (WCH) provisions, and raised points relating to carbon and climate change and feedback around timing of works. The Applicant emphasised that it had received positive feedback on the design and principle of the project.

The Inspectorate queried what the current views of the Local Authorities were. The Applicant stated that it had had positive engagement with Winchester County Council, although they had raised some concerns about the impact of the project on the wider highway network. Hampshire County Council was supportive of the project in principle but had raised some concerns about WCH provisions and the impact of the scheme on the wider highway network. The Applicant confirmed it would be engaging further with all affected Local Authorities.

### Submission of draft documents for review

The Applicant confirmed it was working on preparing draft documents to be sent to the Inspectorate for review and queried if the Inspectorate could review the introductory chapters of the Environmental Statement (ES). The Inspectorate confirmed that these could be reviewed as part of the draft document service.

The Inspectorate confirmed the document types it is able to review under the draft documents service. It encouraged the Applicant to submit a full suite of plans rather than samples as this enables a more robust/reliable review when read against the draft Development Consent Order (DCO).

The Applicant confirmed it was likely to submit draft documents for review in the last week of October 2021. The Inspectorate suggested for the Applicant to use an appropriate file-sharing platform to submit draft documents for review.

### **Timetable for DCO submission**

The Applicant confirmed it expects to submit its DCO application in Q1 2022.

### **Ongoing engagement**

The Applicant requested a meeting with the Inspectorate in early December to discuss feedback on the draft document review and another meeting in early 2022 to update on DCO submission progress. The Inspectorate agreed that these were appropriate milestones at which to schedule meetings.

### **Any Other Business**

The Applicant explained that there would be Smart Motorways work ongoing in the same area as the M3 Junction 9 scheme. It confirmed that it is working with the Smart Motorways team to ensure both teams are aware of the timing and sequencing of the 2 projects. The Inspectorate queried whether there had been any confusion between the Applicant's scheme and the Smart Motorway project coming through in the consultation responses. The Applicant confirmed that it had been clear that it was consulting on the M3 Junction 9 and not the Smart Motorway project. It explained that in historic consultations there had been some confusion but that was not the case in the latest consultation.

The Inspectorate queried how the Applicant intended to deal with any interactions with the Smart Motorway works in its application. The Applicant confirmed that it hadn't decided yet, however a logical place for it to be covered would be in the 'Case for the Scheme', which would be included in the draft documents. The Applicant confirmed that the working assumptions in respect of this issue would be made clear in the ES and assessed accordingly.

The Inspectorate queried the Applicant's progress in assembling the Order lands. The Applicant confirmed it was engaging with affected landowners. The Applicant stated that Crown land may be affected by the DCO and would engage with the relevant Crown Authority promptly upon confirmation.

The Inspectorate queried whether the project involves any Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) issues. The Applicant stated that there was a need to consider effects

of the project on the River Itchen Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in relation to water quality and pollutant deposition, and that it would be including a HRA report in the application documents. However, it did not anticipate that there would be any likely significant effects on the SAC resulting from the project.

