

Highways Commissioning  
Block 5, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor East  
Shire Hall  
Gloucester GL1 2TH  
Telephone: 01454 662377

1<sup>st</sup> October 2024

## M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme

Dear Mr Maund,

### Application by Gloucestershire County Council for an order granting Development Consent for the M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme

#### Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8 and 9, 13 and 16

Further to the Examining Authority's Rule 8 letter, dated 14 June 2024, I write in respect to the information requested from the Applicant at Deadline 5 (01 October 2024).

#### Documentation submitted at Deadline 5

Please find enclosed the following documents which have been requested from the Applicant at Deadline 5:

1. Responses to Examining Authority's Second Written Questions (ExQ2):

The Applicant can confirm that the following document has been submitted at Deadline 5:

- Applicant's Response to Examining Authority's Second Written Questions (ExQ2) (TR010063/APP/9.77 – Rev 0)

2. Updated Land Rights Tracker:

The Applicant can confirm that the following document has been submitted at Deadline 5:

- Land Rights Tracker (TR010063/APP/9.29 – Rev 2.0): The Applicant has provided a clean version only due to the difficulty in creating a tracked change copy of an excel spreadsheet. The Applicant understands that this is the preferred format for this document.

#### Additional Submissions at Deadline 5

In addition, the Applicant has also sought to provide the following documents submitted at Deadline 5:

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1. Applicant's Response to Interested Parties' Deadline 4 Submissions (TR010063/APP/9.78 – Rev 0)

It should be noted that in a change from previous deadlines and in order to minimise the extent of repetition in its submissions, the Applicant has only provided a response where clarification was deemed helpful or necessary. This is reflected in the sequencing of response references where it should be noted that references relate to the equivalent paragraph number of the relevant interested party's comments.

2. Transport Assessment Appendix L – Traffic Forecasting Report (TR010063/APP/7.5 (Rev 2.0))

An updated version of the Traffic Forecasting Report has been submitted with the addition of V/C output plots from the traffic modelling for Scenario Q in 2027, as requested by the Examining Authority in its ExQ2 Q15.0.3.

3. Transport Sensitivity Technical Note (TR010063/APP/9.79)

The Transport Sensitivity Technical Note has been prepared to address National Highways' concerns regarding journey time validation along the A4019 in the Strategic Base Year model, as referred to in its D4 submission (REP4-049). This was issued to National Highways and discussed with National Highways at a meeting on 25 September 2024. The Applicant is carrying out some additional work on future modelling years to answer further National Highways queries. This is expected to also show minimal changes to the traffic model and should resolve National Highways concerns with the traffic modelling. The Applicant is planning to submit an updated Technical Note with this additional work ahead of Issue Specific Hearing 4 in order to allow both interested parties and the Examining Authority time to consider the information in advance of the hearing.

4. Active Travel Modes Plan (TR010063/APP/9.80)

To address an outstanding matter in the SoCG (Items 1.2 and 4.2 in Table 5.1) with the Joint Councils (REP4-022), the Applicant has produced two plans that have been developed through discussions with the Joint Councils. The intention of the plans is to help explain how the active travel provision within the scheme fits within the wider network of existing and planned routes identified in GCC policy. This demonstrates how the M5 Junction 10 Scheme contributes to a coherent network of routes and highlights where gaps remain in the wider network.

The first plan (GCCM5J10-ATK-GEN-ZZ-SK-CH-000002) shows the GCC active travel network (existing and planned routes) in the area between Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury, together with the following three development sites:

- SD5 Area of Restraint (safeguarded land)
- Policy A4 Morth West Cheltenham
- Policy A7 West Cheltenham

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The second plan (GCCM5J10-ATK-GEN-ZZ-SK-CH-000003) shows the active travel facilities proposed as part of the M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme and how they fit into the GCC active travel network in the vicinity of the scheme. This plan also includes brief explanations of factors affecting the choice of facilities and design standards/guidance referenced during the design process.

The Applicant has also provided the following updates to DCO Application documents to reflect any amendments made elsewhere:

## 5. Guide to the Application

The Guide to the Application (TR010063/APP/9.26 – Rev 4.0) charts the submission of DCO application documents to the Inspectorate, identifying the current revision for all documents submitted by the Applicant into Examination. This is a live document and will be updated throughout the Examination process and submitted, when updated, for each relevant deadline.

## 6. Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) and Change Log

The Applicant has provided an explanation for all changes made to the dDCO (TR010063/APP/3.1 – Rev 5.0 in its Change Log (TR010063/APP/9.21 – Rev 4.0). The Applicant has provided a clean Deadline 5 version of the dDCO as well as two tracked copies. The first tracked copy compares Deadline 5 against the Applicant's Deadline 4 submission. The second tracked copy compares Deadline 5 against the original submission version.

## 7. Statement of Commonality and Statements of Common Ground

The Statement of Commonality (TR010063/APP/8.1 – Rev 3.0) has been updated to reflect the current position with regards to the submitted SoCG's - this reflects the SoCGs that were submitted at Deadline 4, namely Joint Councils SoCG (REP4-022) and National Highways SoCG (REP4-023) and the following updated Statements of Common Ground that have been submitted at Deadline 5:

- North West Cheltenham (TR010063/APP/8.7 – Rev 1.0);
- Safeguarded Land (TR010063/APP/8.8 – Rev 1.0); and
- West Cheltenham (TR010063/APP/8.9 – Rev 1.0)

The SoCGs have been shared with the developers however, no response to date has been received therefore, this is the current position as considered by the Applicant at Deadline 5 submitted on 01 October 2024. The Applicant has submitted the SoCGs as requested by the ExA in Q1.0.2. The Applicant would like to make it clear to the ExA that the SoCG is still being reviewed by the third parties and that discussions are on-going between parties and a further updated SoCG will be submitted at future deadlines.

Given the volume of updates and amendments that have been made to the aforementioned SoCGs, as a consequence of the ongoing discussions since the submission of the DCO application, any 'tracked versions' would result in

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documents with such level of changes that the purpose of the seeing the tracked changes would be lost. As such, in the case of the SoCGs, the Applicant has provided 'clean versions' only at Deadline 5.

## 8. Updated Flood Risk Technical Note

The Flood Risk Technical Note (TR010063/APP/9.20 – Rev 1.0) has been updated to address the below request from the Environment Agency:

*The Environment Agency have reviewed the ordinary watercourse Infoworks ICM modelling for the southern end of the West Cheltenham link road. We consider the modelling to be reasonable although we would request that the Flood Risk Impacts Technical Note TR010063 – APP 9.20 is updated to also reference the Upper End (+94%) climate change scenario in section 6.1 Extreme Event. It would also be useful is some brief commentary around the sensitivity of model results to model parameters such as mannings roughness and downstream boundary conditions could be added to the report.*

To reflect the Environment Agency's request the document has been updated with amendments made throughout. The document has also been updated with regards to the storage volumes in the flood storage area, so as to align with the current FRA document. The conclusions drawn do not change.

## 9. Updated Appendix 10.8 Geology and Soils Chapter Figures

ES Appendix 10.8 (TR010063/APP/6.15 – Rev 1.0) has been updated to include a new figure (Figure 10.3a) that shows the agricultural land classification across the area surrounding the Scheme. This figure has been produced in response to the Examining Authority's 1<sup>st</sup> Written Question 10.0.4.

## 10. Updated Appendix 8.1 Flood Risk Assessment

Part 1 and Part 2 of the ES Appendix 8.1 (TR010063/APP/6.15 – Rev 2.0) have been updated to provide two figures showing Flood Zone 3b and its proximity to the Scheme, as requested by the Environment Agency. Part 1 of the document provides explanatory information on these figures, as well as information regarding a drainage pipe in Uckington that is referenced in ES Chapter 8 [AS-023] but not in Appendix 8.1. Part 2 provides two new figures.

## 11. Equality Impact Assessment

The Equality Impact Assessment (TR010063/APP/7.6 – Rev 1.0) has been updated to reflect a data update, including Census 2021.

## 12. Updated Statement of Reasons, Land Plans and Schedule of Changes

The Applicant can confirm that the following documents have been updated at Deadline 5:

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- Combined Schedule of Changes to Statement of Reasons and Land Plans (TR010063/APP/9.22 – Rev 4.0)
- Land Plans (TR010063/APP/2.2 – Rev 5.0)

## 13. Letters of In Principle Support

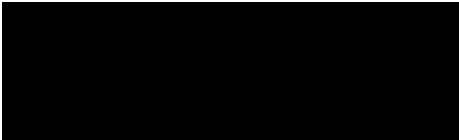
A joint letter submitted by the developers to the Examination setting out commitment to support the funding and delivery of the M5 Junction 10 Scheme (TR010063/APP/9.81).

### **Additional submissions**

We note that additional submissions have been submitted into examination and propose to respond at Deadline 6 in order to give these matters our full consideration.

I trust this information provides assistance in considering the matters raised and addresses the Examining Authority's Rule 8 letter.

Yours sincerely,



**Chris Beattie**  
**Highways and Infrastructure**  
**Gloucestershire County Council**