

Explanation of Highway Plans Changes

The West Midlands Rail Freight Interchange Order 201X

Deadline 8 - 21 August 2019

Four Ashes Limited

THE WEST MIDLANDS RAIL FREIGHT INTERCHANGE ORDER 201X

DOCUMENT 18.3 – EXPLANATION OF HIGHWAY PLANS CHANGES

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document accompanies the set of amended highway plans which are being submitted at Deadline 8.
- 1.2 There is only one, relatively minor, amendment being made but this change requires an update to some plans in all of the series of highway plans which identify the relevant highway works.
- 1.3 The amendment is to relocate the signalised pedestrian crossing on the A5/A449 Link Road so that it is closer to the A449 roundabout.
- 1.4 Schedule 15 of the Applicant's final version of the draft DCO (dDCO) submitted at Deadline 8 (Document 3.1E) has been revised to include the updated revision numbers of the revised plans.

2. Amendments to Highway Plans

- 2.1 Following results of the final safety risk assessment, the crossing over the A5/A449 Link Road is now proposed to be located nearer to the A449 roundabout to better address the safety risk to vulnerable road users.
- 2.2 The following plans show the crossing and have been amended to reflect the change:
 - Access and Rights of Way Plans (Key Plan (Document 2.3) and Sheet 1 (Document 2.3A));
 - Highway General Arrangement Plans (Key Plan (Document 2.9) and Sheet 3 (Document 2.9C));
 - Future Highways Maintenance Plans (Key Plan Document 2.10) and Sheet 1 (Document 2.10A));
 - Traffic Regulation Plans (Key Plan (Document 2.11) and Sheet 1 (Document 2.11A));
 - Speed Limit Plans (Key Plan (Document 2.12) and Sheet 1 (Document 2.12A)); and
 - Highway Classification Plans (Key Plan (Document 2.13) and Sheet 1 (Document 2.13A)).
- 2.3 Updated highway plans have been submitted previously during the Examination, some of which have been in relation to the location of the A5/A449 Link Road crossing. It is therefore considered helpful to explain the chronology of the amendments relating to the crossing and the reason for those changes. This explanation is set out below.

3. Chronology of A5/A449 Link Road Crossing

3.1 The table below explains the amendments to the crossing.

Date Plans Submitted to ExA	Status of A5/A449 Link Road Crossing and Reason for Changes
3 August 2018	The highway plans submitted with the DCO Application proposed an uncontrolled crossing.
21 May 2019	<p>Following receipt of the Stage 1 Road Safety Audit, the crossing was amended to a signalled, staggered, crossing to address a problem identified in the RSA. It was positioned on the Link Road at a distance from the roundabout designed to avoid traffic queuing back from the crossing onto the roundabout circulatory carriageway if the signal was called.</p> <p>Plans showing this new crossing were submitted to the ExA on 21 May 2019 and the explanation for the changes formed part of the Applicant's Minor Amendments to Plans Document (Document 12.1, AS-044).</p>
5 July 2019 and 19 July 2019	<p>Following the amendment to the crossing in May, HE requested a further safety audit. That safety audit raised concerns that the crossing was located too far from the A449 roundabout which might result in pedestrians/cyclists attempting to cross away from the crossing provided. The solution was therefore to move the crossing closer towards the A449 roundabout, whilst still avoiding traffic queuing back onto the roundabout if the signal was called and to reverse the staggered crossing, as well as providing a pedestrian deterrent surface around the island crossing.</p> <p>The highway plans were updated and most were submitted to the ExA as part of the Applicant's Deadline 6 Submissions on 19 July 2019. The Access and Rights of Way Plans (Document Series 2.3) had already been updated to reflect this amended crossing at the same time as making the amendments requested by SCC in relation to the various public rights of way and these were submitted at Deadline 5 on 5 July 2019.</p>
21 August 2019	HE sought the views of the safety auditors to confirm that this amendment now suitably addressed the problem raised. The safety auditors advised that the amendment in July did not sufficiently alleviate their safety concerns and that pedestrians/cyclists were still likely to cross the road away from the formal crossing. It was therefore agreed with

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	<p>HE that, as the proposed crossing location did not resolve the perceived problem raised by the safety auditors, an 'exceptions report' should be submitted and a safety risk assessment should be carried out to justify the proposed location. However, the risk assessment was carried out and concluded that the crossing should be located closer to the A449 roundabout than shown on the plans submitted in July to better balance the safety risk for pedestrians and cyclists and the impact on the roundabout. It is considered that the proposed amended location of the crossing shown on the plans submitted at Deadline 8 on 21 August 2019 is an appropriate design solution.</p>