



Meeting note

Project name	Oxfordshire Strategic Freight Railway Interchange (OxSFRI)
File reference	TR050008
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	9 February 2022
Meeting with	Oxfordshire Railfreight Limited
Venue	Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting objectives	Project Update
Circulation	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.

Project Update

The Applicant provided an update referring to the Scheme Fix from the previous meeting:

- **Highways** - The Applicant explained progress on the highway elements of the scheme, and stated it had positive feedback from the county council and National Highways on its highway approach. Option 25 for M40 Junction 10 was discussed, and the Applicant expressed confidence with its highway solutions.
- **Rail** - The Applicant noted its continuous fortnightly meetings with Network Rail.
- **Surveys** – The Applicant has conducted extensive surveys on the main site and proposed highways areas including geophysical surveys. Survey work is ongoing. The Applicant confirmed that they are not intending to submit any requests to access land under s53 of the Planning Act 2008.

The Applicant noted positive engagement with the local authorities (LAs) on preparing Planning Performance Agreements. The Applicant intends to engage with the host local authorities on the Development Consent Order (DCO) structure and requirements.

The Applicant confirmed it has been in discussion with the LAs on the content of a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The Applicant confirmed the statutory consultation (with the LAs) on the SoCC will be taking place shortly.

The Inspectorate stated that it can read the SoCC prior to the statutory consultation and that some Applicants choose to keep the content of the SoCC flexible (for example when planning for events during covid).

The Applicant asked if weekend consultation events held in local physical venues would be required and if so, how many would be appropriate. The Inspectorate explained it cannot provide a direct answer to this, advising the Applicant to discuss planned consultation activities with the LA who will have the detailed knowledge of the local area and residents and advised to record this within the Consultation Report, specifically in terms of the ongoing pandemic.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to create within the Consultation Report a SoCC tracker, explaining and providing evidence of compliance with the individual elements.

Programme Update

The Applicant confirmed the following programme:

- Non statutory consultation – Q2 2022
- Statutory consultation – Q4 2022
- Submission of the application – Q1 2023

The Inspectorate asked if there would be adequate room within the programme to undertake a targeted consultation, following the statutory consultation, if required. The Applicant stated that there was none planned but that the programme would be flexible enough to accommodate a further, targeted consultation if needed.

The Inspectorate asked if the Applicant planned to submit draft documents for review as part of its programme. To aid the draft document review the Applicant should highlight any novel issues, asking specific questions where advice is sought. The Inspectorate confirmed draft documents should be provided via a file share site or emails, rather than USBs. The Applicant indicated that it would be submitting draft documentation for review.

Awareness of Current Issues and New Advice

The Applicant asked about any current issues and new advice that it should be aware of from the Inspectorate. The Inspectorate stated that virtual events are currently taking place for Preliminary Meetings and hearings held during examination. There may be a need for in person events with virtual elements. The Inspectorate offered to provide a list of audio-visual companies that Applicants have employed to carry out recordings / livestreaming.

AOB

The Applicant offered to provide a plan and document that explains the various NSIP elements of the project. The Inspectorate confirmed this would be helpful to understand the various elements of the scheme but noted that it would not be able to provide a view on whether these were NSIPs or not. However, it could provide comment on the content.

The Applicant confirmed the Development Consent Order will include highways NSIP elements.

The Applicant and the Inspectorate agreed on the date of the next meeting in June 2022.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- The Inspectorate to send invitations for upcoming project update meeting.
- The Applicant to send draft SoCC and Inspectorate to provide any comments on the draft SoCC
- The Applicant to provide the Highway NSIP explanation document for review and comment by the Inspectorate
- The Inspectorate to provide a list of audio-visual companies to the Applicant, in preparation for virtual events.

