



## Developments Affecting Trunk Roads and Special Roads

### Highways England Planning Response (HEPR 16-01)

### Formal Recommendation to an Application for Planning Permission

From: Catherine Brookes (Divisional Director)  
Operations Directorate  
Midlands Region  
Highways England  
[planningm@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:planningm@highwaysengland.co.uk)

To: **Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council**

CC: [transportplanning@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:transportplanning@dft.gsi.gov.uk)  
[growthandplanning@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:growthandplanning@highwaysengland.co.uk)

Council's Reference: **PL/2015/51409/PPOL**

Referring to the planning application referenced above, re-consultation dated 17 June 2020, Outline planning application for:

**Option A - A motorway service station, new motorway junction and access road from M42, including underpass beneath Solihull Road, demolition of bridge across the M42 and its replacement with a new bridge and associated works (means of access for consideration) as delineated on plan drawing nos. Parameters Assessment Plan (Amended)- BIR.4229\_270 and Proposed Parking and Access Plan - 223839-ARPZZ-ZZ-DR-CH-00101 Rev P06.**

**AND**

**Option B - A motorway service area, including underpass beneath Solihull Road and associated works (means of access for consideration) to ensure appropriate connection to the Development Consent Order Scheme as delineated on plan drawing nos. Parameter Assessment Plan - BIR.4229\_54-A and Option B Scheme Proposed Parking and Access Plan - 223839-ARP-ZZ-ZZ-DR-CH-00908 Rev P01.**

Located at Solihull Road Hampton In Arden Solihull, notice is hereby given that Highways England's formal recommendation is that we:

~~a) offer no objection;~~

- ~~b) recommend that conditions should be attached to any planning permission that may be granted (see Annex A – Highways England recommended Planning Conditions);~~
- c) recommend that planning permission not be granted for a specified period (see Annex A – further assessment required);
- ~~d) recommend that the application be refused (see Annex A – Reasons for recommending Refusal).~~

Highways Act Section 175B is relevant to this application.<sup>1</sup>

This represents Highways England’s formal recommendation and is copied to the Department for Transport as per the terms of our Licence.

Should you disagree with this recommendation you should consult the Secretary of State for Transport, as per the Town and Country Planning (Development Affecting Trunk Roads) Direction 2018, via [transportplanning@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:transportplanning@dft.gsi.gov.uk).

<b>Signature:</b> 	<b>Date:</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
<b>Name:</b> Catherine Townend	<b>Position:</b> Assistant Spatial Planner
<b>Highways England:</b> Highways England   The Cube   199 Wharfside Street   Birmingham   B1 1RN	
<a href="mailto:Catherine.townend@highwaysengland.co.uk">Catherine.townend@highwaysengland.co.uk</a>	

---

<sup>1</sup> Where relevant, further information will be provided within Annex A.

## **Annex A    Highways England recommended further assessment required**

HIGHWAYS ENGLAND (“we”) has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such we work to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

This response represents our formal recommendations with regard the above referenced planning application, and has been prepared by Catherine Townend, Assistant Spatial Planner for Highways England.

### **July 2020 Update**

Since our last update in June 2020, we have maintained regular dialogue with the applicant to address some of the remaining outstanding items required to assess the impact of this proposal on our network.

I advised in my last update that the traffic modelling work to assess both scheme options has now been reviewed and accepted by Highways England, and that no further traffic modelling work is required.

I also advised that the Walking, Cycling, and Horse Riding Assessment (WCHAR) for the Option B scheme has been submitted and accepted by Highways England.

Since my last update, I can now report that the outstanding drainage matters mentioned in my last update have now been addressed and the outline drainage design for the scheme has been accepted.

All required Departures have now been assessed by Highways England and given the required Approval In Principle (AiPs).

The Stage 1 Road Safety Audit (RSA) has been commissioned by ourselves and we are expecting the Audit Report imminently. Upon receipt, we will invite the design organisation to reply with any comments (if applicable), before finalising the report.

The Option B scheme will still also be required to undergo a Safety Risk Assessment and we will liaise with the applicant and our own Safety Engineering & Standards (SES) division to ensure the completion of this piece of work.

**In light of the above, we recommend that planning permission not be granted for a period of up to three (3) months from the date of this response to allow for further evidence supporting the proposal to be submitted and reviewed.**