

Please see below an important update concerning the potential route options for the realigned A46 and M5 J9.

A46 & M5 J9 Transport Scheme

Gloucestershire County Council Press Release

Have your say on potential route options for M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch) Transport Scheme

Gloucestershire County Council is running a public engagement exercise from Monday 7 October – Monday 2 December 2024 on potential route options for the M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch) Transport Scheme.

A wide variety of route options have been considered and technically assessed for suitability. The council now plans to share these options with stakeholders, local communities and the public during the engagement exercise. This is the first stage of public engagement, with feedback being used to inform further options refinement and shortlisting. A preferred route option would only be identified following future public consultations.

The scheme proposes the development of a new M5 Junction 9a near Tewkesbury and the re-routing of the existing A46 around Ashchurch to Teddington Hands roundabout. This would divert long distance traffic away from the existing A46, including heavy goods vehicles. In turn, this would reduce traffic on the existing A46 through Ashchurch, allow local improvements for cycling and walking to take place and enhance the local environment. In addition, the new rerouted A46 would improve journey times and road safety. The scheme would reduce queuing back to the M5 from the Junction 9 roundabout, which is currently a safety concern.

The M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch) Transport Scheme is also essential to providing the connectivity to and unlocking the capacity for planned and proposed strategic housing and employment growth in the area. This includes the Tewkesbury Garden Communities programme, which will provide much-needed new homes and jobs in Tewkesbury.

The early stages of the scheme's development have been funded by Gloucestershire County Council, investing over £10 million to date in business case preparation, National Highways and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (now the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government), who announced awards of £1.5 million in March 2021 and a further £1.5 million in March 2022 (total £3m) to support the development of the scheme.

The public engagement exercise forms part of the early development of the M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch) Transport Scheme, which will rely on securing funding from Government to deliver the scheme. At this early stage, no commitment can therefore be given to funding being secured for the scheme delivery.

Cllr David Gray, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, said: "More than half of the traffic currently using the existing A46 through Ashchurch during peak periods is longer distance through-traffic. Our proposals would provide an alternative more suitable route for these vehicles, especially heavy goods traffic. This would benefit local residents and businesses by reducing traffic volume, noise and pollution on the existing A46 through Ashchurch. The scheme will also support sustainable travel options, with the needs of walkers, cyclists and horse riders considered in the overall design, and provide essential connectivity for the proposed garden communities, boosting sustainable growth and housing supply."

A link to the online survey and details of the potential route options will be added to the scheme webpage www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/J9 on Monday 7 October. Face-to-face events will also be held at George Watson Memorial Hall (Watson Hall) on Saturday 19 October from 10am – 5pm and at Northway Community Hub (Main Hall) on Wednesday 23 October from 11am – 4pm, where you can meet the project team and find out more about the scheme. Hard copies and accessible formats of the public engagement documentation can

be requested from Monday 7 October by emailing M5Junction9@atkinsrealis.com or by calling 01454 667490 (Monday – Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm) and leaving a message.

It should be noted that TAAG expect three potential routes to be on the table from the 7th October. More than likely, the A435 will be involved in some or all of the potential routes.

Tewkesbury Borough Councillors have been called to a meeting on the 4th October to brief them on the plans for the 'Public Engagement' hopefully we may get more information prior to the 7th as to the plans.

TAAG will be in touch as soon as we have further information.

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