

**M1 / M69 Public Consultation Update for Leicester Forest East Parish Council
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Due to the time needed to consider the number of responses and constructive suggestions received from the public, the public consultation for the M69 link roads on the M1 at Junction 21 is likely to be held in early 2007, following completion of further studies of a number of potential options for the project.

Local residents will be able to view all the options that are being considered by the Highways Agency and explanations of each of the options will be provided. The Highways Agency will also show the option it feels best addresses the issues raised by the public and key stakeholders in the earlier stages of consultation. This will be displayed as the Agency's favoured option based on current information and comments.

The public consultation process is a crucial element of the M1 widening project, allowing members of the public to input their views to the Highways Agency team.

Tony Turton, project leader for the Highways Agency said:

"We have listened to the views of local residents and we are considering all comments. There were no firm plans for the M69 link road when we presented to residents earlier this year. Our aim was to get local feedback to allow us to develop the best options in more detail. This aim has been achieved and we are using that information in the development of the project."

The dates for the public consultation will be announced as soon as the Highways Agency has completed all of the necessary studies.

The Highways Agency is concerned about the distress caused to residents by the distribution of unofficial sketches and proposals of the scheme and would like to assure residents that no decisions will be made until after the public consultation and after all comments and suggestions have been carefully considered.

The dates and venues for the consultation will be displayed on the Highways Agency's internet site, local parish council newsletters and advertised via a poster campaign in the local areas. Members of the public are encouraged to keep up to date with the progress of this project by subscribing for email alerts at: www.highways.gov.uk/M1eastmidlands.

Ends