

## POPE of Major Schemes Summary Report

Scheme Title	<b>A419 Commonhead Junction Improvement</b>	Major Schemes No:	68
Opening Date	March 2007		
POPE Stage	One Year After		

### Scheme Description

The scheme involved the construction of a D2 overpass across Commonhead roundabout, at the junction of the A419 and A4259, southeast of Swindon. The original carriageways were widely separated, to allow for future possible grade separation, and these have been retained as slip roads. Environmental barriers have been provided along part of the overpass length.

### Objectives

- ◆ Remove congestion
- ◆ Improve safety

### Objective Achieved?

Yes  
Yes

### Main Impacts

- Environment**
- Slight adverse impact on Landscape, due to visual impact, as predicted. The impact is expected to lessen over time, if landscape planting becomes successfully established.
  - The Biodiversity impact is slightly adverse, as predicted. Mitigation measures have been provided as expected.
  - Air Quality is expected to have improved, due to the reduction in congestion. Carbon emissions are calculated to have diminished, whereas a slight increase was predicted.
- Safety**
- Injury accidents have reduced from 20.7 to 6.0 per year, a much greater improvement than predicted. However, one year is too little time to draw a firm conclusion.
- Economy**
- The actual traffic flows on the A419 are very close to predictions. It has increased 4% above the regional background rate, as predicted. This is likely to be due to local increases in traffic and reassignment from minor roads not covered in traffic surveys.
  - Journey times have improved by up to almost 2 minutes. It is not known how these compare with predictions, as no predicted journey time figures are available.
  - The outturn cost was £13.4 m (2002 prices). This lower than predicted.
  - The combination of better than predicted time and accident benefits, and lower than predicted cost, has given a BCR of 11.2, better than expected.
- Accessibility**
- Slight improvement to Severance, due to the reduction in traffic at the signalised slip road pedestrian crossing.
  - Improvement to reliability of bus services along the A419, but deterioration for those crossing it, attributed to the now continuous flow of traffic on A4259 from Commonhead, rather than platooned as previously.
- Integration**
- Conforms with local and central government policies on transport and land use.

## Detailed Traffic Impacts

- ◆ Traffic on the flyover, one year after opening, was 46,300 vehicles per day (vpd). Slip road flows were about 6,000 -8,000 vpd.
- ◆ A419 mainline flows are within 4% of predictions. Slip road flows differ from predictions by between 5% and 27%.
- ◆ Traffic using Commonhead roundabout has reduced by 57%, following construction of the flyover.
- ◆ Journey times on the A419 have been cut by nearly 2 minutes in the AM peak, and about 1 minute at other times.
- ◆ Queue lengths approaching Commonhead roundabout have been cut, and now rarely exceed 50 metres on the A419. No queues were recorded from the A4259. Other delays unrelated to this scheme still remain, e.g. approaching M4 Junction 15 on the A419, and at Great Western Hospital on the A4259.

## Economic Summary

	Forecast	Actual
60 year Benefits (2002 present value)	£68.93m	£132.72m
Costs (2002 present value)	£13.66m	£11.88m
Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR)	5.04	11.17

## Lessons Learnt

- ◆ The scheme has been a success in terms of forecasting, budget, and performance. Probably the most critical comment received during consultation has been concerning the scheme's effect on traffic flow on the A4259 (leading west toward Swindon). The flow was previously broken up by signals at Commonhead, but with their removal, flow is now continuous. This is said to be hindering access to the A4259 from the hospital and from the B4006, and to be a reason for increased scheduled times on some bus services.
- ◆ The AST for this scheme did not show predicted journey time savings. This has made it difficult to understand the derivation of predicted travel time benefits.
- ◆ Biodiversity evaluation was made difficult by the absence of ecological monitoring by the contractor, or by the non-provision to POPE of the results of any such monitoring.