

Junctions 10 to 13 Improvement | M1

Junctions 11 and 12

Public Consultation Report: Executive Summary



Managed Motorways



Introduction

In January 2009 the Secretary of State announced that the M1 between Junctions 10 and 13 would be improved using Hard Shoulder Running (HSR). HSR allows traffic to use the hard shoulder as a running lane during periods of congestion.

Because it would be necessary to acquire land via statutory processes, the design of Junction 11 and Junction 12 was separated from the HSR works. However it is the intention that the junction improvements would be constructed concurrently with the HSR works

M1 Junctions 11 and 12 currently experience heavy congestion and queues, particularly at peak times. Improvements are proposed at these junctions to make journey times more reliable and to maximise the benefits of HSR by preventing queues building up over the length of the slip road and onto the motorway.

Public Consultation

Public Consultation for Improvements at Junctions 11 and 12 began on Thursday 25th June 2009 and lasted for 13 weeks, ending on Thursday 24th September 2009. The consultation sought the views of the public and stakeholders on the proposals for improvements to M1 Junctions 11 and 12.

Information was distributed to the public and key stakeholders in the form of leaflets, questionnaires and press announcements. The leaflet and questionnaire were distributed in advance of Public Consultation to approximately 1100 local residents. Further copies were placed at deposit points including local authorities, town councils and libraries. Details were also published on the Highways Agency's (HA) website.

Public Consultation Exhibitions were also held in July 2009. Three exhibitions were held locally to allow the public to view the single option for Junction 11 and the three alternative options for Junction 12. Three rejected options for Junction 12 were also presented. The exhibitions were attended by staff from the Highways Agency (HA), Costain Carillion Joint Venture (CCJV), Scott Wilson (SW), and Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) who were there to explain the proposals, answer questions from the public and accept written comments.

In addition to the questionnaires, public responses were received via post, telephone, email, and the HA website.

As part of the consultation, meetings were arranged and proposals circulated to stakeholders including county councils, local authorities, Joint Local Access Forum, the Environment Agency, English Nature, the emergency services, parish councils, action/user groups and land owners. Comments and feedback were invited, and the opportunity for further consultation offered.

Summary of Responses to Consultation

A total of 378 people visited the exhibitions. A total of 104 questionnaires were returned. The responses were also received via:

- 9 comments from the exhibitions,
- 14 letters,
- 47 emails and
- 16 from the HA website.

A total of 105 exit surveys were collected. The vast majority of respondents were from the local community.

Junction 11

The majority of respondents supported the proposed improvement to Junction 11, as shown in Figure 1 below.

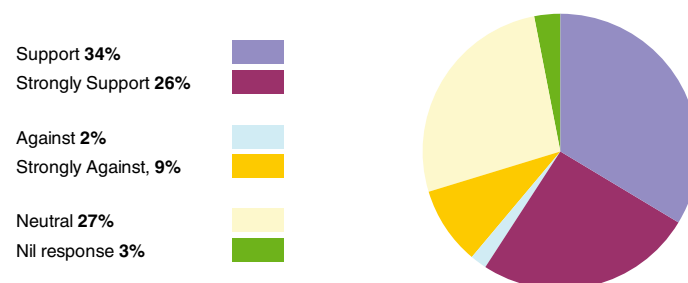


Figure 1. Support for the proposed Improvement at Junction 11

Junction 12

Of the three options presented for Junction 12, the Orange Option was preferred by the largest number of respondents, as shown in Figure 2 below.

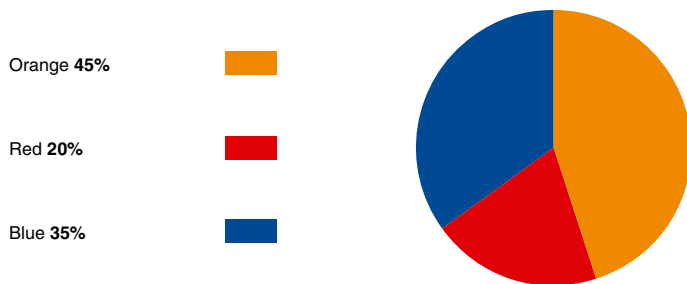


Figure 2. First choice of improvement option for Junction 12

The most important factor in the choice of option was safety, as shown in Figure 3 below.

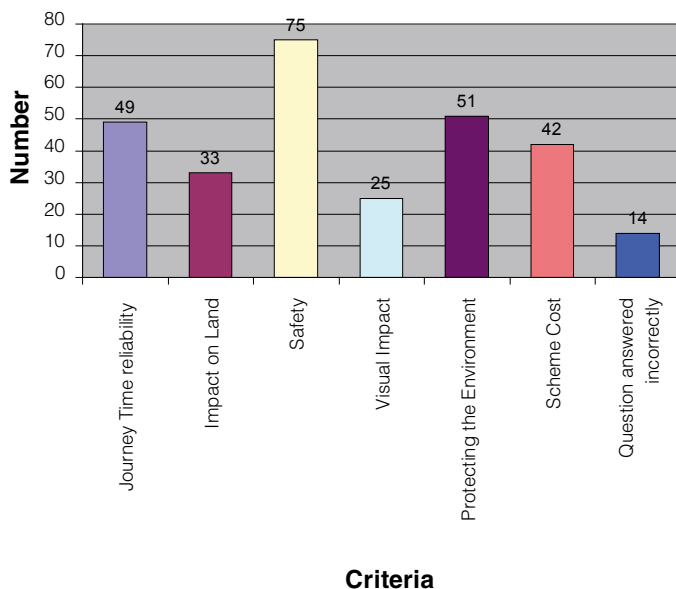


Figure 3. Important factors when choosing a design option for Junction 12

General concerns raised during the public consultation included:

- Safety of motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.
- Traffic queues and congestion.
- Improving facilities for Non-Motorised Users.
- Dealing with environmental issues including ecological, landtake and heritage.

Other Information

The M1 Junctions 11 and 12 improvements will be designed in association with the M1 Junctions 10 to 13 HSR scheme. The A5-M1 Link (Dunstable Northern Bypass) Scheme, including a new junction 11a between Junction 11 and 12, is being progressed through a separate statutory process to allow concurrent construction with these schemes.

Recommendations of Public Consultation Report

It is recommended that comments and concerns raised during the Public Consultation Period are taken into consideration during the design.

Further Information

Should you require additional information, please use the following contacts:

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Safety at roadworks



The Highways Agency is working with the industry and road users to reduce the risks of working on the roads.

For the safety of roadworkers and all road users, when you are approaching roadworks:

- Keep within the speed limit – it is there for your safety.
- Get into the correct lane in good time – don't keep switching.
- Concentrate on the road ahead, not the roadworks.
- Be alert for works traffic leaving or entering roadworks.
- Keep a safe distance – there could be queues in front.
- Observe all signs – they are there to help you.



If you need help using this or any other Highways Agency information, please call **08457 50 40 30** and we will assist you.

