

Appendix C - Public Consultation Feedback September/October 2017

Highways England ran a public consultation exercise for six weeks between 4th September and 15th October 2017 for the M621 Junctions 1 to 7 Improvement Scheme. The M621 junction 2 proposals are captured as part of this larger link based improvement scheme.

Three public consultation events were held during the consultation period, which 33 people attended.

A public consultation brochure, including questionnaire, was delivered to approximately 7,800 residences and businesses in the local area in addition to key stakeholders such as Local Councillors and Members of Parliament (MPs). This was also made available at events during the consultation period.

The public consultation brochure was made available online, along with an online version of the questionnaire. Responses to the consultation were accepted through a number of channels:

- Online at www.highways.gov.uk/m621j1-7
- Email: M621J1to7@highwaysengland.co.uk
- Post, using the free post envelope provided with the consultation brochure

Promotion of the consultation included regional media coverage and social media posts through official Highways England Twitter account.

CONSULTATION FINDINGS

A total of 123 responses were received during the consultation period. This comprised of 105 questionnaires and 18 comments received through emails or letters. The questionnaire requested that people supply a valid postcode. Where the information provided could be identified as a valid postcode, 54% of responses had come from the 'Local' area. This is defined as having come from a postcode which is based within the area that brochures and paper questionnaires were distributed.

Responses were received from different demographic groups in the population. Three quarters of responses were from males, and almost two-thirds (64%) of returned questionnaires had been completed by people aged 45 or older.

A high majority of respondents (81%) identified that they agreed that "something should be done to improve reliability and reduce congestion on the M621". Whilst over half of respondents (56%) strongly agreed with the statement, demonstrating a strong recognition of the concerns identified by Highways England.

Option C was the most popular option of the three options presented in the consultation, preferred by 46% of respondents. Approximately one quarter of respondents (27%) indicated that they did not prefer any of the options, whilst Option A was selected by 13% of respondents; Option B was the least popular selected by less than one in 10 respondents (8%).

Each of the scheme proposals included closing junction 2a westbound (anti-clockwise).

The survey results demonstrated that:

- 51% of respondents use the M621 link at least once a week;
- 23% use it daily;
- 83% of respondents identified they understood the reasons for to closing the slip road at junction 2a;
- 53% of respondents supported the proposal;
- 30% of respondents did not support the proposal.

The questionnaire provided opportunities for respondents to add open text alongside the multiple-choice questions. In addition, a number of open text responses were received by the Project Team via letters and emails. The comments offered a range of views. In addition to comments which reinforced support for the proposals, there were concerns from local residents about reduced access to Beeston and the impact that closing junction 2a westbound (anti-clockwise) will have on the local road network, as traffic is diverted. Several comments queried specific details of the proposals, or suggested alternative approaches.