

M20 Junction 10A - Access to the South of Ashford Preferred Route Announcement - March 2010

From June to September 2008 we held a Public Consultation to ask your views on making improvements to the M20 at Junction 10 to increase the capacity to ease congestion and long delays.

Why the Improvement is needed
The results of our Public Consultation
The Secretary of State's decision on the Preferred Route
What happens next?

Why are the improvements needed?

Ashford has been identified as a major growth area for the South East in the Government's Sustainable Communities Plan. The provision of 31,000 additional homes and 28,000 new jobs in the area is anticipated by 2031.

The existing M20 Junction 10 will suffer from congestion and long delays in the future if additional capacity is not provided. The M20 is an international route and is used by large volumes of heavy goods and holiday traffic. Long distance traffic from the M20, A20 and A2070 (south of Ashford) conflicts

with local traffic from Hythe Road and Kennington Road.

The M20 Junction 10A scheme has been identified as a key transport requirement and is essential to the future development of South Ashford. The recent improvements at Junction 10, to increase the capacity and improve safety, will allow some development to go ahead but will not be sufficient for all of the proposed developments. The proposals support policies in regional planning guidance and the local development plans.



IMAGE COURTESY OF PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF

Public Consultation

The Public Consultation period was between 13 June 2008 and 5 September 2008. We sought views on the Proposed Option and two alternative options from the general public and other interested parties. The public exhibition took place on 13 and 14 June 2008.

We prepared a leaflet containing information on the proposals, along with a questionnaire for respondents to complete and return to the Highways Agency. The leaflet and questionnaire was distributed in advance of the public exhibitions to approximately 1,700 local residents, with a further 700 to deposit points including local authorities, town councils and libraries. Details were also published on the Highways Agency website.

300 visitors attended the exhibitions, with 26 comments made. 384 completed questionnaires were received and the Highways Agency issued individual replies to requests for further information.

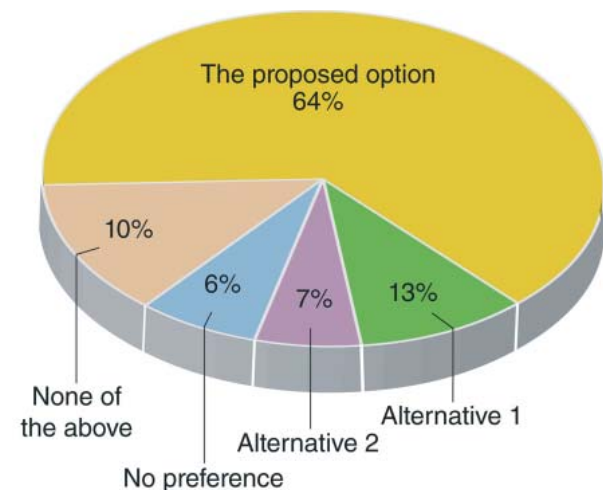
Responses raised during Public Consultation

The main comments made concerned the following:

- Junction 10 – Some drivers are delayed and confused by the current layout. Further revisions to the signals and road markings will be considered as part of the design of the Junction 10A scheme.
- A20 – Increased journey times and increased traffic. Some local residents were concerned they would need to travel further than their current journey.
- Barrey Road/Sevington Business Park – A right turn was requested, potentially via a roundabout. Consideration will be given to inclusion of the A2070/Barrey Road Junction in the Junction 10A scheme.
- Connections to Highfield Lane/Kingsford Street – Concerns that vehicles will leave the M20 at Junction 10A and drive through Mersham. Further consideration will be given to measures to address these concerns during the next stage of developing the scheme.
- Heavy goods vehicles, parking problems and additional congestion – Concerns were raised about HGV's parking in side roads. Kent County Council are considering solutions.

- Pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians – the existing Church Road footbridge across the A2070 will be affected by the link road to the new Junction 10A. The retention of a footbridge crossing was preferred to a signalised crossing by those members of the public who commented on the issue. During the next stage, we will explore options for either replacing the footbridge or providing a signalised crossing.
- Development – Some general opposition to wider development proposals.
- Environment – Increased noise and impact on the countryside. Measures will be taken to minimise the effects on the environment.

The majority of respondents expressed preference for the proposed option as shown below:



Decision of the Secretary of State

The Secretary of State for Transport has considered the views of those who responded to the consultation and the recommendations of the Highways Agency.

He agrees with the proposal to build a new Junction 10A on the M20 and associated works and accordingly announces the Preferred Route as described below and shown in this leaflet.

The Preferred Route

- To construct a new M20 Junction 10A, 700 metres south east of Junction 10. The new junction will include a roundabout over the motorway, new slip roads and a new link road to the A2070 Bad Munstereifel Road. Junction 10A will be partially signalised with two 3 lane bridges.

- The A20 Hythe Road would be incorporated in the new junction so that the traffic in both directions would travel via the new roundabout.
- A new pedestrian/cycle bridge over the M20 from Kingsford Street to the A20.
- The existing Highfield Lane Bridge and Church Road footbridge will be demolished.
- A new non-motorised user crossing at Church Road.
- The east facing slips at the existing Junction 10 will be removed.

What happens next?

The M20 Junction 10A scheme proposals as detailed in the section above is now the preferred route and will be protected from development.

The draft Development Consent Order and Environmental Statement will now be prepared.

A Public Examination will be held before a Commissioner appointed by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC).

For further information on IPC, please visit:

infrastructure.independent.gov.uk

Further information

The Scheme Assessment Report and Public Consultation Report explains the factors that determined the choice of the scheme.

These reports can be inspected during office hours until the 3rd June 2010 at the following locations:

The Ashford Gateway

14 Park Mall
Ashford
Kent
TN24 8RY

Mersham with Sevington Parish Council

Miss JJ Mills (clerk)
8 Long Row
Flood Street
Ashford
TN25 7HD

(If you wish to view the documents, please contact the Parish Council to make arrangements on 01233 720816 or email mershamandsevington@madasafish.com)

Stanhope Library

Stanhope Square
Ashford, TN23 5SH

Highways Agency

Federated House
London Road
Dorking
RH4 1SZ

Alternatively, if you require an electronic or hard copy of the report contact the team at:

The M20 Junction 10A Team

Highways Agency
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford, MK41 7LW

email m20j10ascheme@highways.gsi.gov.uk

Got a question or comment?

08457 50 40 30*

email ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

Live traffic information

08700 660 115*

www.highways.gov.uk

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

*Calls from landlines to 08457 and 08700 numbers can cost up to 8p per minute but are free from some landline providers; mobiles usually cost more. Please check costs with your service provider.

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.