

Report to Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation

Decision to be taken on or after 14 August 2019

**Decision can normally be implemented at least
3 working days after decision has been signed.**

Cabinet Member Report No. T22.19

Title:	A4010 & A4129 Safety Improvement Works
Date:	6 August 2019
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Local members affected:	Cllr. Bill Bendyshe-Brown Cllr. Carl Etholen Cllr. Darren Hayday Cllr. Majid Hussain

For press enquiries concerning this report, please contact the media office on 01296 382444

Summary

Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) proposes to improve a number of sites along the A4010 and A4129 between Monks Risborough and Booker, High Wycombe to ensure increased speed and safety mitigation from HS2. This project has been developed working in partnership with Princes Risborough Town Council, Bradenham Parish Council, West Wycombe Parish Council and Wycombe District Council (A4010 Petitioners Group). Following a successful bid by the A4010 petitioners group the funding assurance has been granted by HS2 Ltd for speed and safety mitigation measures for future construction traffic.

This proposal includes the introduction of new and upgraded pedestrian crossings facilities, pedestrian refuges, speed limit zone entry features as well as improvements to associated road markings, signage and road studs.

Recommendation

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation:

AGREE: To approve the construction of the final designs with the zebra crossings, including amendments made following consultation of A4010 & A4129 Safety Improvement Works so that the project can begin construction as soon as reasonably possible as per Appendix 1.

AGREE: To delegate authority to the Head of Highways Infrastructure Projects (or appointed deputy) to award the construction contract following the consultation and an open tender exercise.

AGREE: To delegate authority to the Head of Highways Infrastructure Projects (or appointed deputy) to revise the programme, risk allocations, descope the project and/or approve additional scope within the available HS2 Ltd funding through to completion of the whole project whilst keeping the Cabinet Member for Transportation, relevant local Member(s) and Petitioner Group informed.

A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

- A.1 The A4010 Petitioning Group, consisting of Princes Risborough Town Council, Bradenham Parish Council, West Wycombe Parish Council and Wycombe District Council petitioned the HS2 Select Committee to ensure increased Safety along the A4010 and A4129 where it is proposed as a HS2 construction route. This petitioning work led to draft mitigation proposals for the A4010 and A4129.
- A.2 The purpose of developing the draft mitigation proposals was to establish a broad cost estimate for permanent road safety/severance measures along the A4010 and A4129 to help mitigate the effects of HS2 construction traffic. The broad principles of the draft mitigation proposals and the total estimated costs were the subject of discussions and negotiations between the County Council and HS2 Ltd as part of the Parliamentary Petitioning process during 2015/16.
- A.3 As a result of these discussions and also the detailed evidence presented to the Select Committee by the A4010 Petitioning Group in November 2015, the Secretary of State for Transport offered an Assurance in January 2016 to provide Buckinghamshire County Council £480,000 (index linked) to be applied exclusively on the provision and maintenance by the Council of permanent safety measures along the A4010 and A4129 construction traffic routes.
- A.4 Following the initial award of the assurances totalling £480,000 preliminary design was commissioned in February 2018 through AECOM and DRF Consulting Engineers Ltd. Following review of the high level designs in July 2018 it was agreed with the A4010 Petitioner Group that further design and surveys were required to reduce design risks and help accurately estimate future construction costs. In December 2018 DRF Consulting Engineers Ltd was commissioned to complete the detailed design and contract administration for this phase of work.
- A.5 The index linked assurance was granted an increase of £60,690 (in line with indexation) in February 2019 resulting in a total project budget of £540,960.
- A.7 In March 2019 the scheme was subject to a design review held together with representatives of the Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) including the Maintenance and Road Safety teams. TfB also highlighted that they are carrying out carriageway resurfacing in summer 2019 as part of their maintenance programme between Askett

Roundabout and Queens Road in Monk Risborough mitigating some of the expected resurfacing costs.

A.8 Public consultation for the entire scheme took place between 24 May 2019 to 14 June 2019.

- Sites 1a – West Wycombe (North) Entry Features
- Sites 1b – West Wycombe (North) Entry Features
- Site 2 – St Teresa’s School Frontage with additional ‘Crossing’ signage
- Site 3 – Monks Risborough School Frontage
- Site 4 – Bradenham Bends with LED road studs, revised lining and static signage
- Site 5 – Wycombe Road Zebra Crossing and traffic islands.
- Site 6 – Longwick Road Entry Feature with a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS)
- Site 7a – Longwick Road Pedestrian Crossing with upgraded LED Belisha beacons
- Site 7b(i) – Aylesbury Road Pedestrian Crossing yellow backed signage only
- Site 7b(ii) - Aylesbury Road with upgraded LED belisha beacons
- Site 8 – West Wycombe footway improvements
- Site 9 – Monks Risborough Entry Feature with a VAS
- Site 10 – Princes Risborough Entry Feature with a VAS
- Site 11 – Wycombe Road footway widening
- Site 12 – West Wycombe Rail Bridge signage and lining.
- Site 13 – Bradenham Road pedestrian refuge
- Site 14 – Bradenham Road Bus Shelter hard standing
- Site 15 – Wycombe Road zebra crossing and traffic islands
- Site 16 – Cressex pedestrian refuge and static signage
- Sites 17a – Saunderton (North) Entry Features
- Sites 17b – Saunderton (South) Entry Features
- Site 18 - Bradenham Woods Lane Junction with A4010, refreshed signs and lining.

B. Other options available, and their pros and cons

B.1 **Do Nothing:** In this scenario the Council would return the funding secured from HS2. This is not seen as acceptable due to the potential use of the A4010 and A4129 as HS2 construction routes. Even if they are not used for HGVs and LGVs it is likely both routes will see an increase in traffic from sub-contractors and workers accessing HS2 compounds.

B.2 **Delivery of all schemes:** The full list of schemes in Section A.8 was consulted on however a number of these schemes were discounted due to the impact they would have on the Chilterns AONB and due to the limited support. Through the procurement of a contractor it has become clear that the project can only afford a reduced number of sites.

B.3 **Preferred Option - Prioritised schemes:** The list of schemes outlined below will be delivered within the available HS2 Ltd funding. These sites have been through internal stakeholder review, public consultation, and construction works tender exercise. This has resulted in them being prioritised as part of this scheme.

- Site 2 – St Teresa’s School Frontage
- Site 3 – Monks Risborough School Frontage
- Site 4 – Bradenham Bends

- Site 5 – New Wycombe Road Zebra Crossing
- Site 6 – Longwick Road Entry Feature
- Site 7a – Longwick Road Zebra Crossing
- Site 7b – Aylesbury Road Pedestrian Crossing signage only
- Site 9 – Monks Risborough Entry Feature with repositioned VAS
- Site 10 – Princes Risborough Entry Feature with repositioned VAS
- Site 13 – Bradenham Road Pedestrian Refuge
- Site 14 – Bradenham Road Bus Shelter with revised hard standing construction
- Site 15 – New Aylesbury Road Zebra Crossing
- Site 16 – New Road pedestrian refuge and signage

B.4 The schemes (Sites 1, 8, 11, 12, 17 & 18) which will no longer be delivered will be placed on hold unless additional funding sources are identified.

C. Resource implications

C.1 The implementation of the A4010 & A4129 Safety Improvement Work is funded by a HS2 Ltd Assurance totalling £540,960 agreed by Buckinghamshire County Council and HS2 Ltd on the 28 February 2019. A copy of the assurance is attached in Appendix 2.

C.2 Once completed these measures will be adopted and maintained by the Council in its role as Highways Authority.

D. Value for Money (VfM) Self Assessment

D.1 Construction and installation of the A4010 & A4129 Safety Improvement Works will be carried out by Buckinghamshire County Council and its approved contractor following an open tender exercise via the Buckinghamshire Business Portal (ProContract) in line with BCC's procurement policy.

D.2 The summary of the completed tender exercise is attached in Appendix 3.

E. Legal implications

E.1 A statutory consultation was carried out in accordance with Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the introduction of two formal pedestrian crossings for 3 weeks. In accordance with Section 23, the Council consulted with the Chief Officer of Thames Valley Police (TVP) of its intention to install two new zebra crossings together with high friction surfacing and associated footway works, signing and road markings required. Notice of the proposals were also given to the public as required by section 23 and in the manner stated at I.1 of this report as part of a wider public consultation.

E.2 The Traffic Management representative on behalf TVP produced a report on 28 June 2019 following a site visit stating that the police have no objection to the new zebra crossings. A copy of the report is attached in Appendix 4.

F. Property implications

F.1 The safety improvement works are contained within the current highway extents. There is no requirement for land acquisition to facilitate these works.

G. Unitary Council

- G.1 The council is working collaboratively with representatives from Princes Risborough Town Council, Bradenham Parish Council, West Wycombe Parish Council and Wycombe District Council on the A4010 & A4129 Safety Improvement Works project.
- G.2 Buckinghamshire County Council as the highway authority is delivering the project. All approved works are scheduled to be completed before 31 March 2020 ahead of the new Buckinghamshire Council authority being in place. Following transition to the new authority existing contracts and maintenance will be transferred to the new authority.

H. Other implications/issues

- H.1 Consideration for the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Area was taken into account. A detailed summary of the consultation is discussed in Section I - Feedback from consultation.

I. Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Local Member views

- I.1 Public consultation for the entire scheme took place between 24 May 2019 to 14 June 2019.

- Consultation information was made available to the public via the have your say webpage. <https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?ID=9501>
- A press release was issued on 24 May 2019 and circulated to the local press by the BCC Communications team
- Information was released to the BCC & TfB statutory consultation list on the 24 May 2018 via hitmailbox@buckscc.gov.uk.
- Letters to frontages for properties adjacent to the proposed sites were sent out on the 24 May 2019.
- A member consultation briefing took place on 28 May 2019 with all local members impacted by the individual schemes invited to attend.
- The Cabinet Member for Transportation was invited to appear on Wycombe Sound on the 4 June 2019 to discuss the scheme.

- I.2 Through consultation the emergency services have also been informed of the proposals as part of the statutory consultation list.

- I.3 A statutory consultation was carried out in accordance with Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the introduction of two formal pedestrian crossings. The Council notified the appropriate Chief Officer of Thames Valley Police (TVP) of its intention to install two new zebra crossings.

- I.4 There were 108 individuals who responded to the consultation, with a number of individuals commenting on multiple sites. The majority of the public responses are in favour of the schemes put forward, with responses in favour for the sites being implemented scoring between 77% and 96%. A detailed summary of the responses is shown in Appendix 5.

- I.6 The following County Councillors have confirmed their agreement with the proposed schemes post consultation:

Cllr. Bill Bendyshe-Brown (The Risboroughs)

'I am happy to support the proposed decisions and recommend it for approval by Cllr. Shaw.'

Cllr. Darren Hayday (West Wycombe)

'I am happy for these schemes to continue.'

I.7 The following County Councillors did not provide a response after consultation:

- Cllr. Carl Etholen (Ridgeway East)
- Cllr. Majid Hussain (Booker)

J. Communication issues

J.1 There remains a need to communicate with the public over the works as the construction takes place and to ensure that the scheme does not receive negative public comments. A communications plan has been developed to ensure that information is shared in a timely fashion.

J.2 Information will be sent to stakeholders via a combination of letters, press releases, email bulletins, temporary traffic signage, website updates and social media posts via twitter e.g. @buckscc.

K. Progress Monitoring

K.1 A combined Road Safety Audit Stage 1 and 2 was completed in January 2019 following completion of the detailed design.

K.2 All the schemes delivered will be subject to a Road Safety Audit Stage 3 following substantial completion of the works, this will be carried out by an independent person/organisation external to the designer and project team. A further Stage 4 Road Safety Audit will be scheduled approximately 1 year following the schemes introduction.

L. Review

L.1 N/A

Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Post Consultation Plans

Appendix 2 – Extracts of HS2 Funding Agreements

Appendix 3 – Tender Summary

Appendix 4 – TVP Response to Proposed New Zebra Crossings

Appendix 5 – A4010 Consultation Response

Your questions and views

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.

If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Democratic Services Team by 5.00pm on 13August 2019. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382343), or e-mail to democracy@buckscc.gov.uk