

APPENDIX A

Summary of Objections & Feedback

50 miles per hour Speed Limit on A40 Oxford
/ Wycombe Road from West Wycombe to
Studley Green

SUMMARY OF OBJECTIONS AND FEEDBACK

The feedback received in the Statutory Consultation presented mostly supports for the proposals. A few comments received emphasized that:

- this A40 carriageway section is fairly straight, safe and in good condition (with good visibility)
- many motorists are driving below the current 60mph national speed limit and
- there have been many serious accidents / fatalities on this stretch of the A40 – Oxford/Wycombe Road, and may need speed cameras to be installed as an additional traffic calming measure.

Wycombe’s MP feedback received recommended that the proposals should consider other engineering improvements to enhance the safety of this road. All responses are included in the full responses document in Appendix B.

Overall objections summed up to a total of thirty nine comments. Supports summed up to eighty five, comprising of 67% of all the responses received.

Proposal	Yes	No
50mph Speed Limit on A40 Oxford/Wycombe Road from West Wycombe to Studley Green	85	39

	Total	%
All Responses	127	100%
Yes	85	67%
No	39	31%
I’m not sure	3	2%

The tables below summarise the responses in objection and support to the consultation.

Table 1 – Objection Comments

Comment	TfB Response
<p>MP Steve Baker Response:</p> <p>“Given the open layout of this stretch of road, it is difficult to imagine that a lower speed limit will be taken seriously by the majority of reasonable drivers. I certainly cannot conceive it will be obeyed by those who already speed excessively on that stretch.</p> <p>I note that the driver, has been charged with two counts of causing death by careless driving in relation to the tragic deaths of two cyclists.</p> <p>I am reminded of the case of a lady, jailed at Aylesbury Crown Court after pleading guilty to causing the death of a lady by careless driving while under the influence of alcohol. The accident took place in West Wycombe:</p> <p>I am at one with the community about the appalling nature of both accidents and the tragedy of the loss of the victims. I can certainly see the case for engineering measures to improve safety at the several hazards along this stretch. I cannot however see the case for a lower speed limit throughout, one which will not be credible, when road traffic offences were committed in the one case and may have been committed in the more recent one.</p> <p>I am therefore opposed to the proposed speed limit reduction but I would urge the Council to please consider other engineering improvements to enhance the safety of this road.”</p>	<p>Speed Data was obtained at five locations along the A40 between 7th August 2020 and 13th August 2020. The mean average speed along the whole route travelling East was 51mph and 51.4mph travelling West. In the past five years there have been 2 Fatal collisions (including the double fatality involving two cyclists), 3 Serious Injury Collisions and 9 Slight Collisions.</p> <p>Transport for Buckinghamshire are satisfied the proposed speed limit reduction to 50 mph meets the criteria set out above by DfT for this section of road.</p> <p>Support has been gained from Thames Valley Police for the speed limit reduction.</p> <p>There are very limited options for traffic calming engineering measures on high speed roads as opposed to traffic calming on 30mph road. Previous safety schemes have already provided additional and higher specification lining and cats-eyes on this route. Therefore, a speed limit to reinforce the average speeds is deemed appropriate.</p>
<p>Public Response: A speed limit of 60 mph was designed for this road and is adequate / acceptable / reasonable on this stretch of highway. Network Safety team has replied with the following statement:</p>	<p>Speed Data was obtained at five locations along the A40 between 7th August 2020 and 13th August 2020. The mean average speed along the whole route travelling East was 51mph and</p>

Comment	TfB Response
<p>Public Response: Collisions were due to driver error, and not regarding the 60 mph current speed limit; complaining that public money will be spent unnecessarily.</p>	<p>51.4mph travelling West. In the past five years there have been 2 Fatal collisions (including the double fatality involving two cyclists), 3 Serious Injury Collisions and 9 Slight Collisions.</p> <p>Transport for Buckinghamshire are satisfied the proposed speed limit reduction to 50 mph meets the criteria set out above by DfT for this section of road.</p>
<p>Public Response: Motorists already drive below 60mph, which are often accompanied by drivers who want to overtake these motorists, causing a dangerous scene. Many are concerned that if the speed limit is reduced to 50mph, drivers will reduce even more their current speed and may contribute to more dangerous overtaking or causing future accidents.</p>	
<p>Public Response: This fairly straight road is safe and in good condition with good visibility / sightlines as well as no blind bends or junctions.</p>	
<p>Public Response: Lowering the speed limit would not have an impact on motorists who already ignore the current speed limit.</p>	

Table 2 - Support Comments

Originator	Comment
Public	A number of comments received highlighted that many motorists are driving below the current 60mph national speed limit
Public	Some respondees stated that there have been many serious accidents / fatalities on this stretch of the A40 and therefore the speed limit should be lowered.
Public	One comment received stated that this road suffers from black ice in winter.
Cllr Orsolya Hayday	“As one of the local members of the ward I completely support this scheme to reduce the speed limit down from 60 mph to 50mph. This is a very dangerous stretch of road which has sadly seen a number of road traffic accidents including fatalities. Please allow it to go ahead.”
Councillor Darren Hayday	Confirmed both verbally and in various correspondence emails that he supports this scheme EXTRACTS – <i>this is a very dangerous stretch of road, in fact, it is one of the most dangerous in the County, where we have seen the deaths of 3 people in the last 2-3 years. There have been many accidents along the proposed stretch of road, even 2 of my friends have been involved in road traffic accidents (both being cyclists), one of which was badly injured and had to be airlifted to hospital. Most drivers travel at 50mph however there are around 15% who drive over the current 60mph speed limit.</i>
Parish Councillor for the hamlets of Studley Green, Beacon's Bottom, Horsleys Green, and Waterend:	<p><i>Speeding on the A40 is a big issue through our neighborhood. Whilst this proposal will not affect the speed limit through our direct section of the A40, I hope that it will play some part in reducing the speeding culture along the route in general — as drivers approach us. Speed reduction is not a panacea, but I view it as part of a jigsaw of welcomed road safety improvements for our part of Buckinghamshire.</i></p> <p><i>I frequently witness vehicles travelling far in excess of the local speed limits, and it seems extremely quick as cars rush past the Dashwood pub, for example. The current national speed limit through an area which is populated by residents of Piddington, for example, seems too high. Residents often cross the road towards Ham Farm to walk in the woods, and the traffic junction of Old Dashwood Hill near there is unfortunately a particular flashpoint which needs more attention.</i></p>
North West Chilterns Community Board <Transport and Road Issues Action Group>	discussed this matter and have agreed unanimously to support this proposal.
1.1 Thames Valley Police	TVP have no objection to this speed limit reduction proposal and they have agreed to the scheme extents.