

A61 Wakefield Road Public consultation Monday 26 July – Friday 3 September











Introduction

Welcome to the A61 Wakefield Road scheme public consultation

South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTE) is working on proposals for a large public transport related highway improvement scheme on the A61 Wakefield Road in Barnsley to improve bus connectivity, reliability and journey times.

The purpose of this document is to provide information about the A61 Wakefield Road scheme proposals. SYPTE is seeking feedback from you on the proposals to help to shape and inform the scheme design.

Sheffield City Region (SCR)

Sheffield City Region secured £166m from the Government's Transforming Cities Fund (TCF), in 2020. This funding is focused on three large areas that would benefit from significant improvements across rail, public transport and active travel schemes. Schemes will make improvements to reduce journey times, cut congestion, improve punctuality and reliability, and bring about a wide range of benefits associated with active travel, such as improved health and wellbeing.

The A61 Wakefield Road scheme forms part of this programme, improving connectivity and making public transport and active travel a better option for those travelling in the area.

Key Parties

The key parties involved in delivering this scheme are Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority (SCRMCA), SYPTE, Barnsley Council and consultants working on behalf of SYPTE.

SCRMCA: The agreed Devolution Deal between Government and the leaders of Sheffield City Region devolved a range of powers and responsibilities to the SCRMCA and an elected mayor. This formal partnership of Councils shapes policy and leads on decision-making in South Yorkshire.

SYPTE: Promoter of the A61 Wakefield Road scheme.

Arup, Turner and Townsend, and Aecom: Consultants working on behalf of SYPTE on the programme, design, modelling, business case and planning application for the scheme.

Barnsley Council: Responsible for approval of the design and construction and upon completion Barnsley Council will adopt the scheme as public highway.

The Proposed Scheme

Scheme Deliverables

The proposed A61 Wakefield Road scheme will:

- widen the carriageway at two key points between Old Mill Lane Bridge and Carlton Road
- provide a new bus lane and shared cycle/ pedestrian pathways
- improve bus connectivity, reliability and journey times, making public transport a better option for those travelling in the area.

Scheme Background

The A61 Wakefield Road corridor is a busy route between Monk Bretton and Staincross, linking Barnsley to Wakefield and Leeds. The road experiences high volumes of traffic, particularly at peak times during the morning and evening rush hours. Previous work to address this includes junction improvements at the Burton Road/ Wakefield Road Junction, completed in 2012. There have also been a number of bus stop improvements e.g. new shelters, raised boarding points and bus stop clearway markings.

Despite the impact of COVID-19 on traffic volumes last year and into 2021, travel demand is likely to get back to normal and journeys increase along this busy corridor. Interventions are therefore required to reduce congestion, improving both journey times and air quality. Planned or proposed new housing developments along

the corridor mean further work is also needed to provide additional capacity to accommodate expected traffic growth, while prioritising sustainable transport modes, including bus, walking and cycling.

Having identified the key delay points, Barnsley Council, local bus operators and SYPTE have worked in partnership to develop proposed highway improvements. The proposed interventions aim to relieve congestion and improve journey times along the A61 Wakefield Road between the Old Mill Lane/A61 gyratory, north of Barnsley town centre, and Carlton Road.

The proposed scheme will prioritise public transport and active travel and improve accessibility in the area, whilst being considerate of local wildlife and memorial sites.





Design

The proposed A61 Wakefield Road scheme will provide highway improvements at key junctions along the A61 corridor from the Old Mill Lane/A61 gyratory north of Barnsley town centre, up to Carlton Road.

The proposed scheme will be broken down into two phases to be delivered separately. The two phases are detailed below.

Phase 1 - Old Mill Lane Bridge and Gyratory

The widening of Old Mill Lane Bridge to accommodate four traffic lanes, an inbound bus lane and a shared cycle/pedestrian pathway on both sides of the highway will improve traffic flow across the bridge, as well as encouraging active travel. Both footways across the bridge will be increased to a width of 3m, to enable shared use for pedestrians and cyclists and will link directly to Barnsley Council's active travel schemes in the area. The Gyratory and Burton Road junctions will also be reconfigured to accommodate the wider bridge. A new signalised pedestrian crossing will be introduced to allow a safe crossing point over the new highway.





Phase 2 - Carlton Road and Smithies Lane

The carriageway between Smithies Lane and Carlton Road junctions will be widened to four lanes. On Smithies Lane, the signalised junction will be reconfigured as a result of the realignment of the highway, including alterations to the pedestrian crossings and associate signals. Pedestrian crossings will be removed on the north side of the Smithies Lane junction, and the south side of Carlton Road. These layout changes will allow all traffic to flow more freely whilst retaining a safe place for people to cross the road.









Design Features

Phase 1 - Old Mill Lane Bridge and Gyratory

Design features of Phase 1 of the proposed scheme include:

- widening of the existing bridge and carriage
- a new approximately 8m wide section of bridge deck to the western side of the existing structure.
- new piled foundations for the new section of bridge deck, located either side of the River Dearne
- extension to the existing island
- the introduction of an additional traffic lane
- bus priority measures, including a new bus lane
- wider shared footpaths
- new crossings and associated signalling equipment
- new vehicle restraint barriers and associated structures to support the change in levels on the new western edge of highway, on both approaches to the bridge
- widening of the highway approach to the north of the bridge with raised levels by way of an earth embankment and reinforced concrete retaining wall
- reconfiguration of the highway alignment to tie into the existing Old Tannery Road signalised junction

- site clearance works
- reconfiguration of the highway alignment to the south of the bridge to tie in the proposed widening scheme with the existing Old Mill Lane gyratory - including relocation of the existing bus stop
- changes to the existing Asda car park to enable the widening of the highway corridor, including limited loss of parking spaces and relocation of the existing recycling bins
- maintaining the existing access to the River Dearne
- full resurfacing of the carriageway, including to either side of the bridge
- the introduction of new street lighting in compliance with street lighting standards
- the introduction of new signs and road markings in accordance with traffic regulations
- reconfiguration of existing signalised pedestrian crossings in the vicinity of the proposed scheme
- diversion of the existing utility infrastructure within the site including the relocation of an electrical substation
- the introduction of new below surface drainage infrastructure to connect to existing outfalls.

Design Features

Phase 2 - Carlton Road and Smithies Lane

Design features of Phase 2 of the proposed scheme include:

- the introduction of bus priority measures including inbound bus filter lane
- the introduction of additional traffic lane
- widening of the highway by approximately 5.5m to the west of the existing alignment
- the introduction of earth retaining structures along the new highway boundary to tie the new highway into the existing levels
- improvements to Smithies Lane/Wakefield Road junction
- reconfiguration of the signalised junction at Smithies Lane including alterations to the pedestrian crossings and associate signals
- reconfiguration of the signalised junction at Carlton Road including alterations to the pedestrian crossings and associate signals
- full resurfacing of the carriageway
- the introduction of new street lighting in compliance with street lighting standards
- the introduction of new signs and road markings in accordance with traffic regulation

- the diversion of existing utilities infrastructure within the site to enable the works
- the introduction of new below surface drainage infrastructure to connect to existing outfalls

Other Considerations

As part of the design, we have also considered the following:

- improvements to benefit pedestrians and cyclists
- environmental improvements
- local wildlife, such as bats and otters
- local memorial site
- bus stop relocations.



Feedback and Next Steps

Thank you for taking the time to read this document. Your views are important to us in shaping and informing the final design of the A61 Wakefield Road scheme proposals.

To share your feedback, please complete the questionnaire on our website at **travelsouthyorkshire.com/A61** by Friday 3 September 2021. Should you have any difficulties accessing information digitally or need help in completing the questionnaire, please contact the project team.

To find out more information about the proposed scheme, please join one of our online **Q&A sessions** where members of the project team will be available to listen to your views, answer any questions you have and provide further detail.

The sessions will be held on:

Tuesday 10 August - 12pm - 1pm

Tuesday 17 August - 6pm - 7pm

To register for one of these sessions, visit the webpage or contact the project team using the details on this page.

26 July to 3 September

Next Steps

Once the consultation closes on xx xx xx, all the feedback received will be reviewed and used to inform the final design of the A61 Wakefield Road scheme.

We will analyse your views and comments from the consultation. Our actions in response to the feedback will be set out in a Statement of Community Involvement and submitted alongside the planning application with other supporting documentation.

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3 September to 30 September











