

Online Q&A session Tuesday 10 August 2021 – Summary

A short briefing session was held on Tuesday 10 August 2021 at 12:00 to discuss the material from the PDF, available on the TSY website. The floor was then opened up for questions.

A summary of the key discussion points and questions raised by members of the public (set in bold italic) are detailed in the table below.

Topic	Summary of Discussion
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In light of the current pandemic and the social distancing measure in place, it is important to continue with project delivery and associated consultations, but also equally important to ensure consultations are accessible to everyone. Our approach involves a combination of traditional and digital measures to access a range of people. • Due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19 on holding public gatherings, we are hosting two online Q&A sessions. These sessions provide an interactive alternative to our usual face-to-face public drop-in sessions, while continuing to offer an opportunity to find out more about the scheme and ask the project team any questions you may have. • The consultation period runs from the 26 July 2021 – 3 September 2021. Please provide your feedback by completing the questionnaire at www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/A61. • We have an email address for any further questions communications@sypte.co.uk.
Key parties involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SYPTE • Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority (SCR) • Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council <p>Design Engineers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARUP <p>Cost Management and Project Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turner & Townsend
Context and Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheffield City Region (SCR) was awarded £166m of Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) money for active travel and public transport schemes, the A61 Wakefield Road Scheme is one of these projects. • SYPTE manage public transport services across South Yorkshire and are the promoter of the Scheme. • SCR are providing the funding through the TCF. • Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) are the local authority covering the area and will be responsible for approving the scheme. • SYPTE will apply to BMBC for planning permission for the scheme.

<p>The Scheme</p>	<p><u>A61 Wakefield Road, Barnsley</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The widening of Old Mill Lane Bridge to accommodate four traffic lanes, an inbound bus lane and a shared pedestrian/cycle pathway at both sides of the highway, which will improve traffic flow across the bridge as well as encouraging active travel. • Widening the carriageway between Smithies Lane and Carlton Road junctions to four lanes to provide greater capacity between the two signalized junctions. These layout changes will allow traffic to flow more freely whilst retaining a safe place for people to cross the road. • You can view our webpages for the proposals including the PDF here travelsouthyorkshire.com/A61
<p>Comments, Questions and Answers</p>	<p>1. <i>Active Travel – There is a public right of way that runs alongside the pet shop opposite the Carlton Road junction, down some steps onto Smithes Lane. There is also a public right of way that runs between The Funeral Directors and Centrepoint, again down to Smithies Lane. If there is any funding, would it be possible to make a few improvements to these paths as part of the scheme. Currently these paths are looked after by a group of volunteers.</i></p> <p>This is beyond the scope of our bus improvement scheme, but the enquiry will be passed on to BMBC’s active travel team.</p> <p>2. <i>I am looking forward to the scheme at Old Mill Lane Bridge, the traffic problems need sorting out. Inbound buses seem to get through OK but if one or two buses are in this section, things seem to clog up pretty quickly. Sometimes, vehicles occupy the right-hand lane approaching the gyratory unnecessarily, meaning that very few cars get through the lights at the Old Tannery Lane junction without traffic backing up over the bridge.</i></p> <p>Thank you for your support your comments are welcome.</p> <p>3. <i>A number of HGV’s, car transporters etc. use the A61. How will traffic travelling in opposite directions over the bridge be separated in the middle of the carriageway.</i></p> <p>This has been considered and discussed with BMBC’s highway team and the current proposal is to separate the lanes with road markings. There will be no physical barrier in the middle of the road.</p> <p>4. <i>Will the bridge be supported?</i></p> <p>Yes, the bridge will be supported on concrete pile foundations.</p> <p>5. <i>Are there any worries about flooding?</i></p> <p>The flooding risk has been modelled and the findings have been presented to the Environment Agency. The EA are comfortable that the flooding risk is within acceptable tolerances.</p>

- 6. *It is important to control speed over the bridge to keep people safe.***

Yes agreed. Appropriate signage and road markings will be put in place.

- 7. *Tree Removal in the area of the bridge extension.***

A number of trees will need to be removed to accommodate the new bridge extension. New trees will be planted elsewhere to mitigate this. A number of replanting sites were suggested on both sides of the A61 in the area of the bridge. There is also the possibility of planting trees in the Dearne Valley Park.

- 8. *The left turn at the bottom of Carlton Hill onto Wakefield Road is very tight for buses or large vehicles and sometimes they clip the kerbs or have to swing out wide to avoid parked cars.***

The introduction of the extra lane and the alterations to the junction, should reduce this problem.

- 9. *I appreciate the extra lane, but will we still be keeping the right-hand turn onto Smithies Lane.***

Yes, this will be retained.

- 10. *The right-hand turn into the pet shop opposite the Smithies Lane junction often causes problems as does the right turns into the units further down.***

This has been discussed with the Police Road Safety Officer and BMBC Highways and there are no plans to make any major changes, but a Road Safety audit is currently being carried out which should flag up any major concerns.

- 11. *Will the outbound lanes after the Smithies Lane junction be wide enough to accommodate large vehicles e.g. bin waggons, wanting to turn right onto Carlton Road?***

This has been discussed with BMBC Highways and the lane widths will be suitable to accommodate such vehicles.

- 12. *What happens where the road narrows back to two lanes at the town centre end of the 4-lane section? Despite waiting restriction, inconsiderate parking often causes a bottleneck in this area and seriously restricts traffic flow often reducing this stretch to a single carriageway.***

This may be an enforcement issue and will be discussed with BMBC Highways.

	<p>13. <i>Public transport reliability is paramount, and we certainly need to encourage people back onto buses.</i></p> <p>Agreed. This is one of the main aims of the scheme.</p>
Timeframe	we will analyse the feedback from the public consultation and prepare a Statement of Community Involvement, which will be taken into account when submitting the planning application in August/September 2021.