

Information

for County Councillors

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From:	Sunita Mills Service Commissioning Manager – Transport Policy
Date:	14 th September 2016
To:	All County Councillors

M5 Junction 25 (Taunton) Highway Improvements

Introduction

SCC submitted an initial expression of interest (EOI) in mid-2014 to the Heart of the South West Local Transport Board (LTB). This was accepted as one of three schemes to be funded from a £35.4m Growth Deal funding allocation from Government to the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership in early 2015.

Following this, first stage business case was developed and scrutinised by the independent assessment team and recommendations were presented to the LTB on 12th July 2016 who agreed to approve the case.

In August 2016 a key decision was taken to progress the scheme to the next stages of work. This means that the scheme can now move forward to the consultation, outline design, planning and commencement of procurement stages.

Consultation

As part of the consultation process, two public events will be held this month for people to view the plans, ask questions and give feedback. There will be plans available along with feedback survey forms.

The drop in sessions will take place on Monday 19th September at Ruishton Village Hall from 2pm to 7pm and at Taunton Library on Wednesday 21st September from 2pm to 6.30pm.

All of the consultation information will be available on our website from 19th September with information about ways to respond. We are also happy to send paper copies of materials to those people who are unable to attend a drop in session or access the internet.

In addition to the drop-in sessions we are also attending Ruishton and Thornfalcon Parish Council, Stoke St Mary Parish Council and West Monkton Parish Council.

We have been in contact with a number of other parish councils to ask them to spread the word about the consultation.

Next Steps

Once all the feedback from the community engagement has been collated, the next step will be to refine the design of the scheme, taking account of community feedback, to a position where it is detailed enough to apply for planning permission. This will include a number of technical surveys and statutory undertakings.

A robust procurement process will need to run alongside this in order to engage a contractor to deliver the scheme within the funding window.

This should all take approx. 12 months, after which a Final Business Case will need to be submitted to the LTB.

Further information can be found at

[http://www.somerset.gov.uk/policies-and-plans/schemes-and-initiatives/m5-
junction-25/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/policies-and-plans/schemes-and-initiatives/m5-
junction-25/)

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