

Purpose of public consultation

The purpose of this preliminary public consultation is to inform elected representatives and members of the public of the programme for developing and implementing a scheme to solve the congestion problems on the Shore Road Greenisland section of the A2.



Introduction

The Regional Transportation Strategy has confirmed the need to address bottlenecks on the strategic road network as one of its priorities. The Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan, published in November 2004, identifies the Greenisland section of the A2 as one such scheme. The aim of the A2 Shore Road Greenisland scheme is to determine the best solution to resolve congestion and to implement that solution.

The A2 Shore Road Greenisland scheme is now included in the Roads Service Major Works Preparation Pool. This is a list of the highest priority road improvements schemes that are to be developed and taken through the statutory procedures with the expectation of progressing to construction within the next five years. Progression to construction will be dependent on the satisfactory completion of an economic assessment and statutory procedures and the necessary funding being available at the time.



Roads Service has appointed consultants Scott Wilson and Ferguson McIlveen to review the options for this corridor, develop a proposal and progress it through the statutory process.

Existing conditions



The characteristics of the A2, between Belfast and Carrickfergus, vary considerably. While most of the road has two lanes in each direction, the 2.35 km section at Greenisland has only one lane in each direction.

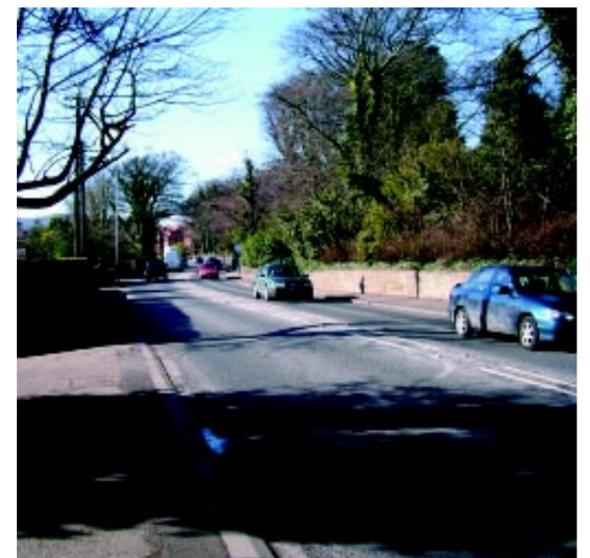
This section of road is a bottleneck on the Belfast Metropolitan Area's strategic road network. This causes significant congestion on the corridor, resulting in long delays and the diversion of traffic to less suitable routes. In addition, bus services along the A2 are significantly delayed. The current daily two-way traffic flow on the road is in the region of 30,000 vehicles.

A2 Shore Road Greenisland



A2 Shore Road Greenisland

Preliminary Public Consultation



24 and 25 May 2005

Glenavna House Hotel,
Whiteabbey

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PROGRAMME

Stage	Detail	When
Preliminary Public Consultation	Explain process and seek initial comments on possible solutions	May 2005
Collect data	Undertake initial traffic, topographic, site investigation and environmental surveys to establish existing conditions	May 2005 - September 2005
Route choice	Analyse existing conditions and identify problem, develop options and choose route based on environment, safety, economy, integration and accessibility criteria	May 2005 - August 2005
Preferred scheme	Undertake detailed analysis of options and select preferred scheme	August 2005 - January 2006
Scheme assessment	Undertake economic assessment and prepare Environmental Statement	January 2006 - September 2006
Public consultation on preferred scheme	Present preferred scheme and give the public opportunity to comment	September / October 2006
Statutory process	Publish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Environmental Statement (ES), ● Direction Order (DO) and ● Vesting Order (VO), including formal public consultation. 	October 2006
Public Inquiry	Based on the responses to publication of the ES, DO and VO the Department may consider it appropriate to hold a Public Inquiry	This could take 12 months
Construction procurement	Commence tender process (subject to the completion of the statutory process and the availability of funding)	
Construction	Commence construction of the preferred transport solution	2008 / 2009

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Traffic surveys

Undertake traffic movement counts at various junctions and accesses during peak periods and undertake roadside interviews.

Topographical surveys

Undertake aerial survey of the corridor, followed up by detailed surveys on the ground.

Ground investigations

Collect information from existing sources of the wider area and undertake boreholes and trial pits.

Pavement condition surveys

Evaluate condition of the existing road using vehicle based electronic testing systems. Occasional core samples will be taken from the road.

Environmental surveys

Undertake environmental surveys, including the location and condition of trees - establish existing traffic noise levels and air quality along the A2 at Greenisland.

Land ownership / occupation

Establish ownership and occupation of property along the A2.

Route choice and preferred scheme

Route choice and selection of the preferred scheme will be based on a detailed analysis against the five Government criteria of environment, safety, economy, integration and accessibility.

Environment

Evaluate the impact of possible solutions on the environment and compare with the existing situation.

Safety

Access road safety as a key requirement of any solution, for all users of the road.

Economy

Assess the economic value of possible solutions to the community.

Integration

Confirm compliance with national, regional and local policies.

Accessibility

Evaluate the use and benefit to all groups in the community.

PROJECT TEAM

Roads Service

Roy Spiers	Project Sponsor
Lionel Walsh	Senior Engineer
Colin McBurney	Engineer
Gerald McGrillen	Lands Officer

Scott Wilson and Ferguson McIlveen

Susan Briggs	Project Manager
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