

Frequently asked questions...

The following Frequently Asked Questions provide more detail on the scheme.

Why are these improvements necessary?

The main purpose of this scheme is to fulfil the following objectives identified by the LEP:

- To reduce peak period congestion on the A419;
- To support strategic housing and employment growth sites at Stonehouse and Stroud;
- To increase capacity, optimise the efficiency of the corridor and reduce delays for general traffic, HGV's and buses, whilst also improving provision for pedestrians and cyclists;
- To support planned growth (including on land near to the corridor), improve access to jobs and support the efficient movement of goods;

When will construction start, and when will it be finished?

We are aiming to commence construction Summer 2018 and complete Summer 2019.

What is the total cost of this scheme and how is it funded?

The cost of the scheme is £4.4M and it is funded by GFirst LEP.

Who are the GFirst LEP?

Set up by central Government in 2011 to work with local businesses, local voluntary organisations and Local authorities, the role of GFirst LEP (Gloucestershire First Local Enterprise Partnership) is to drive sustainable economic growth in the county, and by doing so, create jobs and business opportunities. Run by a voluntary board of senior executives and elected representatives from Business and Local Authorities and a small full time staff of 18 people based in the Growth Hub at the University of Gloucestershire. The LEP also supports a number of business sector groups that provide opportunities for business to 'talk to government' directly.

How is the GFirst LEP funded?

Core operating costs are funded primarily through BIS (Business Innovation and Skills Department of Govt).

All other funding is Capital funding from Government for major projects to support economic growth in Gloucestershire.

Why can't these funds be used for routine maintenance, such as carriageway surfacing repairs?

Because the funds are for 'Transformative Projects' that will drive economic development, focused on Transport Infrastructure, Skills Infrastructure (e.g. colleges), Business Growth (i.e. the creation and expansion of the Growth Hub Business Support facility & infrastructure) and remediation work on land to bring sites into use for housing and business use.

These works are going to disrupt my journey – what are you going to do to reduce this?

We recognise the importance of minimising the disruption this scheme could cause. The works at the four junctions will be phased and programme constraints provided to the Contractor to reduce the impact of the scheme. We currently envisage the main works could be substantially completed within approximately 12 months.

Wherever possible, the work affecting traffic on the A419 will be undertaken during "off-peak" periods so that rush hour traffic flow should not be affected. However, there will be occasions when lane closures may have to be kept in place throughout the day to ensure the safety of site staff, so that the scheme is completed in the shortest possible length of time.

How will you avoid creating excessive noise/pollution/dust/mud during construction?

As part of the tender process, for construction of the scheme we will set out the requirements of a code of construction practice. This will set out the approach to minimising and mitigation of the impacts of noise/ pollution etc during the construction period.

Why are combined pedestrian/cycleway routes proposed and are these safe for pedestrians?

The shared use footway/cycleway has been proposed due to both the anticipated level of use and width available. Effective segregation of pedestrians and cyclists would require a higher flow of cyclists and a minimum of 4.5m total width. The proposed widening of the existing routes will ensure sufficient width for pedestrians and cyclists to interact and pass safely.

Where can I get copies of the material presented at the Public Share Event?

www.goucestershire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-rights-of-way/major-projects/stonehouse-a419-improvements/

