

## **A40 Over Roundabout Improvement Scheme**

### **Frequently asked questions.**

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

#### **What is the A40 Over Roundabout Improvement Scheme?**

It's a road widening scheme designed to increase "capacity" which will reduce the long queues and delays often experienced during peak periods. The main areas of widening will be on the A417 north arm from Maisemore and on the A40 east arm from Longford, on these approaches to the roundabout the number of vehicle lanes will be increased from 2 to 3 lanes. Similarly, on the roundabout itself the number of circulating lanes will also be increased from 2 to 3 vehicle lanes.

#### **There was an improvement scheme at the roundabout in 2015, why is there going to be another one so soon afterwards?**

Highways England carried out the first phase of the planned improvement works for this roundabout. That scheme was called the A40 Over Roundabout Western Approach Widening and completed in March 2015. This consisted of widening the A40 eastbound approach to three lanes to allow a dedicated right turn lane, and also widening the roundabout carriageway on the northern side. A pedestrian crossing was moved to a better location and the lighting was improved within the vicinity of the works.

Following its completion, the effects of the improvements on traffic flows could be assessed and this 2<sup>nd</sup> phase developed accordingly. The second phase will be carried out by the County Council who are responsible for the maintenance and management of the A417 at this location.

#### **Would combining the 2 schemes have reduced the overall amount of disruption to the travelling public?**

No. Combining and constructing both schemes at the same time would have caused considerable disruption on every arm of the roundabout, effectively closing the roundabout for long periods of time.

#### **Why are these improvements necessary?**

Both the A40 east arm and the A417 north arms suffer long delays during peak traffic periods. In particular the A40 east arm suffers long queues and delays in the PM peak, with slow moving queues often tailing back to the A40 Longford roundabout. To a lesser extent, but still a concern, the A417 east arm can be very difficult to exit as the heavy flow on the A40 heading east in the morning peak makes entering the roundabout difficult.

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### **What are the benefits of the scheme?**

The junction improvements will provide increased capacity, relieve congestion and reduce journey times, providing more efficient and reliable movement of people and goods on the A40 and A417. As well as benefiting general traffic and HGV's, the scheme will also improve journey times and reliability for bus services operating along the A40/A417 primary routes travelling to Gloucester.

### **Does improving the capacity of the roundabout have a wider impact?**

Both the A40 and A417 are strategic routes within the County, important for commuters, business, public transport and HGV traffic that may need to access the Forest of Dean, Gloucester and Cheltenham. Reducing delays at this important junction will have a positive impact on the overall economic competitiveness of the area. This scheme continues GCC's work to update highway infrastructure and improve traffic flow and journey time reliability for all users along the arterial north Gloucester A40. Works have already been completed at Walls and C&G roundabouts and construction is underway at Elmbridge Court roundabout.

### **When will the scheme construction start, and when will it be finished?**

We are aiming to commence construction early in 2018 and be complete by Summer 2018.

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

The total cost of the scheme is £2.35 million and this is funded as follows;

GFirst LEP	£2,230,000
Longford Housing Development	<u>£ 120,000</u>
	<u>£2,350,000</u> Total

### **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 (Gloucester 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.

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### **Why can't these funds be used for routine maintenance, such as carriageway surfacing repairs and filling in potholes?**

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. To reduce the impact of the scheme, the overall length of the site contract will be quite short; this will be programmed in detail by the contractor, once the scheme has been awarded. We currently envisage the main works will be substantially completed within 7 months.

Our proposal is to undertake the on-carriageway works outside of the morning peak period, not permitting the contractor to have any lane closures on during this period (7-9am), minimising the impact on journey times for rush hour traffic. However, there will be occasions when either lane closures or full road closures will be necessary and may have to be kept in place through-out the day to ensure the safety of site staff. Diversions routes around the site will be made available during these periods.

### **Have you considered where the diversions routes around the site will be?**

Yes, 2 alternative routes have been chosen. To avoid using A40 east arm of the roundabout there is a diversion route which starts at the Longford roundabout, sending traffic south through Gloucester to re-join the roundabout on the A417.

To avoid using the A417 north arm of the roundabout there is a diversion route which will start at Staunton sending traffic east towards the A38 at Deerhurst, then south on the A38 to re-join the A40 Tewkesbury Road roundabout.

The actual routes will be available at the Public Share Events and also shown on the website.

### **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

### **You are building in close proximity to the flood plain, will the scheme have any negative effects on flooding?**

No, the proposed works do not impact on the flood plain. All of the proposed road widening takes place at the top of the existing embankments, not at the bottom. Hence the footprint of the roundabout within the flood plain remains the same.

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### **Will you have to remove any vegetation as part of this scheme?**

A minimal amount of vegetation at the top of the embankments on the south side of the A40 and on the east side of the A417 will have to be removed in order to widen the road at these locations.

### **Where can I find out more about the scheme**

GCC are planning to hold two Public Share Events to understand local resident's views on the scheme in order to ensure that we meet people's needs. These events will provide the opportunity to see the latest plans and speak to members of the Project Team who have developed the scheme.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Hartpury Village Hall, Over Old Road, Hartpury, Gloucester, GL19 3BJ	Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	9am-2pm
Highnam Community Centre, Newent Road, Highnam, Gloucester, GL2 8DG	Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	2.30pm-7.30pm

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

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/search?q=Major+schemes>+