

PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The purpose of this consultation exercise is to inform elected representatives and members of the public of progress on the proposals to implement a scheme to improve traffic flows on Buncrana Road, between Pennyburn Roundabout and the Border with the Republic of Ireland.

INTRODUCTION

The Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) confirmed the need to address bottlenecks on the strategic road network. The Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (RSTN-TP) identified two sections of Buncrana Road (between Pennyburn Roundabout and Skeoge Link, and between Skeoge Link and the Border) as schemes which should be examined further.

Schemes can only progress to construction following a thorough examination of alternative options, satisfactory economic assessment and where the relevant statutory procedures can be completed.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

During the development of a proposal such as this, there are three stages after which an assessment report is required to be completed, with the following objectives:

- Stage 1** identify the environmental, engineering, economic and traffic advantages, disadvantages and constraints associated with broadly defined improvement strategies.
- Stage 2** Identify the factors to be taken into account in choosing alternative routes or improvement schemes and to identify the environmental, engineering, economic and traffic advantages, disadvantages and constraints associated with those routes or schemes.
- Stage 3** identify clearly the advantages and disadvantages, in environmental, engineering, economic and traffic terms, of the Overseeing Department's preferred route or scheme option.

We are currently in Stage 2 of the assessment reporting process, and are assessing the alternative options with a view to announcing a Preferred Route. We would like to hear your opinion on the proposals as they stand, and how each option would affect you, whether you are a driver, pedestrian, landowner or simply someone with an interest in the scheme.

CONSULTATION EVENT

The Consultation Event will be held in the Style Bar, Ramada Da Vinci's Hotel, 15 Culmore Road, Derry from 5pm to 9pm on Tuesday 1st April 2008, 10am to 9pm on Wednesday 2nd April 2008 and 10am to 5pm on Thursday 3rd April 2008. A series of display boards will be on view giving further information, and Roads Service and its advisers will be on hand to discuss the scheme and answer any specific questions you may have.

PUBLIC MEETING

Following the Consultation Event, a public meeting will be held between 7pm and 9pm on Thursday 3rd April 2008 at the Style Bar, Ramada Da Vinci's Hotel, Culmore Road, Derry. The meeting is open to all interested and affected parties and its purpose is to give the public an opportunity to express their views in an open forum.

A copy of this brochure can be downloaded from the following web address:

www.roadsni.gov.uk/a2buncranaroad

COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSALS

Roads Service would like to hear your views on the proposal. Comments cards will be available at the exhibition, which can be returned in the box provided at the event.

Alternatively you may send your comments by e-mail to roads.northern@drdni.gov.uk or by post to:

Strategic Road Improvement Manager
Roads Service Northern Division
County Hall
Castlerock Road
Coleraine
BT51 3HS

to reach Roads Service by Friday 18th April 2008.

In addition to the postal address above, the following contact information can be used to request any further information or additional copies of this leaflet:

Phone: (028) 7035 9974/9933
Fax: (028) 7034 1442
Email: roads.northern@drdni.gov.uk

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Proposals are assessed against the criteria stated overleaf. The option which most satisfactorily meets the criteria will be taken forward for further study, and will be termed the 'Preferred Route'.

Following the completion of this further study on the Preferred Route, and before construction of the scheme can begin, Roads Service is required to complete a number of statutory procedures that will include opportunity for further public consultation and comment.

Notices published in the local press will include:

- where the statutory procedures may be inspected; and
- where written comment may be submitted.

A2 Buncrana Road Improvements Stage 2 Consultation Event



View of junction of Buncrana Road and Racecourse Road

Ramada Da Vinci's Hotel
Style Bar
15 Culmore Road
Derry
BT48 8JB

1st April 2008, 5pm – 9pm
2nd April 2008, 10am – 9pm
3rd April 2008, 10am – 5pm
Public Meeting, 3rd April 2008, 7pm – 9pm

DRD Roads Service values your opinion. The two diagrams below show the area under study, and indicate the routes being examined. A brief description of the routes follows, and further information will be available at the Consultation Event. Please see the front cover of this leaflet for details of the Consultation Event and Public Meeting. Comments Cards will be available at the Consultation Event, which will give you an opportunity to express your views.



PENNYBURN ROUNDABOUT TO SPRINGTOWN ROAD

The scheme is being developed to provide two lanes of traffic in each direction. Three potential options are being examined between Pennyburn Roundabout (at the junction of Strand Road, Culmore Road and Buncrana Road) and Springtown Road.

- The three routes in question are:
- Red Route (on-line widening),
 - Blue Route (part off-line from Pennyburn Pass to Springtown Road with one way traffic countrybound, and citybound traffic remaining on Buncrana Road), and
 - Purple Route (off-line from Pennyburn Pass to Springtown Road for two way traffic, with the existing Buncrana Road being for local traffic only).

Each option will include revised junction layouts and possible traffic signal arrangements where required.

SPRINGTOWN ROAD TO SKEOGE ROUNDABOUT

Along this section of the scheme, the road will be widened to provide two lanes of traffic in each direction. This will be done primarily by online widening. Although indicative land requirements will be presented at the Consultation Event, no decision has been made as to which side of the road the widening will be carried out.

SKEOGE ROUNDABOUT TO THE BORDER

Along this section of the route, only one option (the Navy Route) is being considered, as a number of factors combine to severely limit the potential route options over this section. This route generally consists on on-line widening, and will be Dual Carriageway standard i.e. two lanes in each direction separated by a central reserve. A new roundabout is proposed at Elagh Business Park, with a connection southwards to Coshquin Road.

BUS PRIORITY, PEDESTRIAN & CYCLING FACILITIES

If the scheme goes ahead (which is subject to satisfactory economic appraisal, the completion of Statutory Procedures and the availability of funds at the time), there will exist a unique opportunity to install priority bus measures along the route. This will enable the bus operating companies to provide a more frequent and reliable service, and has the benefit of attracting more people onto public transport, which reduces the number of cars on the route. This in turn provides environmental benefits. However, these measures can only be implemented if additional land is taken. This will result in many properties being more severely affected than if the bus priority measures were not installed.

Similarly, the construction of the scheme would allow the installation of improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. DRD Roads Service will attempt to enhance facilities for pedestrians and cyclists where land constraints and other factors will allow.

