

3rd June 2019

Good morning

As you may know, the A417 provides an essential link to the M5 at Gloucester and the M4 at Swindon and plays a vital role in the daily lives of the many people who use it every day. Most of the route is dual carriageway, but there is a three-mile stretch between the Brockworth bypass and Cowley roundabout that isn't. Known as the Missing Link, this part of the route restricts the flow of traffic and creates lots of congestion and problems for people using the route.

In recent years, the case for improving the route has become far more compelling – to improve safety, support the economy, ease congestion and reduce pollution. Over the last few years, we have been investigating options for improving the A417 Missing Link and, earlier this year, we announced Option 30 as our preferred route. Option 30 is a 3.4 mile dual carriageway following the alignment of the existing A417 at Crickley Hill, re-joining the road near Cowley roundabout.

Choosing the preferred route followed a public consultation on route options last year which showed a high level of support from the public and political stakeholders for improving the Missing Link. The results of the consultation showed that 72% of respondents agreed with our assessment that Option 30 provides the best opportunity for delivering a solution that meets the objectives for the scheme.

Option 30 will improve safety and contribute to our target of reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on the existing road. Journey times will be more predictable, reducing the cost and inconvenience of unexpected delays for people using the route and it will support the predicted growth in jobs and housing in the Gloucestershire area by improving connectivity. This will be in addition to enhancing the landscape and ecological connectivity through landscape and habitat restoration initiatives.

We are now carrying out more detailed surveys and assessment work to help us refine and design the scheme in more detail and will carry out a second public consultation later this year.

Project update briefing

As an important stakeholder, we would like to invite you to an update presentation on **Thursday 13 June at 6.30pm** at Gloucester Rugby Club, Kingsholm Stadium, Kingsholm Road, Gloucester, GL1 3AX.

We would be grateful if you could please confirm your attendance by emailing A417missinglink@highwaysengland.co.uk.

We remain committed to developing a landscape-led solution to upgrade this section of road to improve safety, support the economy and ease congestion and pollution, while taking account of the environmental sensitivity of the area. If you would like to find out more about the scheme and our preferred route, please visit:

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a417-missing-link/>

We hope to see you at the update briefing and if you have any queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Michael Goddard
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A417 Missing Link

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