

Meeting Minutes

Army and Navy Taskforce Meeting #7

Project Army and Navy Junction, Chelmsford
Location County Hall, Chelmsford **Date/Time** 24 January 2020
Participants Cllr Kevin Bentley **KB**
Cllr Stephen Robinson **SR**
Cllr Jenny Chandler **JC**
Cllr Dick Madden **DM**
Cllr Peter Sodowsky **PS**
Vicky Ford MP **VF**

	<p>Introductions</p> <p>KB welcomed the Taskforce to the seventh meeting, initiating introductions around the room.</p> <p>VF mentioned that she had to leave the meeting early and that she had written another letter to Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport, re-emphasising the importance of the project.</p>
1	<p>Flyover Removal Update</p> <p>KB introduced this section of the meeting by providing some highlights with regards to the forthcoming flyover removal works. This included confirming the date the removal works are scheduled to take commence (10 February 2020), the fact the removal works will primarily be undertaken on weekday nights between 8pm and 5am, and assurance that local residents would be informed that this work will be happening.</p> <p>It was requested that all councillors, including parishes, are made aware of the traffic management requirements for the dismantling.</p> <p>The Taskforce was then given an update on the preliminary work that commenced in December, including the removal of some automated signage and associated electrical equipment, plus preparations for the future dismantling work scheduled to start in February. It was also confirmed that Clarke Demolition Ltd had won the dismantling contract. Since December, there have been discussions with Clarke Demolition Ltd about the specifics of the programme and the proposed six-week works schedule.</p> <p>VF noted that one of the weeks of the proposed six-week schedule is half-term and that generally roads are less busy, therefore she suggested having as much work completed during that time as possible to minimise disruption.</p> <p>KB stressed the importance of continual communication during this time, together with a platform for residents to get in touch. He reiterated the long-term objectives for the project and the importance of promoting sustainable transport options. He also emphasised the importance of improved bus services, to complement any potential bus infrastructure improvements, in encouraging travel by more sustainable means.</p>

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2	<p>Long-term Options Assessment</p> <p>The Taskforce was taken through the Strategic Outline Business Case and reminded of the five initial options for the junction. The framework for assessing these options was explained, along with the initial evidence used to allow the different options to be ranked according to how they score against certain criteria under the Department for Transport's five case model (Strategic, Managerial, Economic, Financial and Commercial).</p> <p>The importance of sustainable measures to improve the flow of people through the junction was emphasised, along with the importance of ensuring people understand that any solution at the junction will not remove queuing entirely, even with significant use of sustainable modes of transport, but it would be significantly improved.</p> <p>KB re-emphasised that we cannot continue to keep building new highway infrastructure, but rather that focus is needed on providing new sustainable transport options in order to give people viable alternatives for their journeys.</p> <p>Following the explanation about the Strategic Outline Business Case, the Taskforce were given an overview of how the Outline Business Case would now progress, including continued refinement of the options, for example enhancing pedestrian and cycling elements, and more detailed assessment in order to reduce the number of options.</p>
3	<p>Programme</p> <p>The Taskforce was presented with a detailed programme for the Outline Business Case that indicated it would be completed in Summer 2021, following a public consultation in Spring 2021.</p> <p>An overview of the steps required to be undertaken following the completion of the Outline Business Case and identification of a preferred option was presented, which indicated that construction could commence in Autumn 2023, assuming none of the processes, such as planning, are delayed.</p> <p>There was a general discussion about the proposed programme and an overall desire for it to be shortened if possible, with the constraints of planning and other processes acknowledged.</p> <p>VF stated that she is keen to see the work undertaken as soon as possible.</p> <p>SR said it would be prudent to look at potential ways of undertaking activities in parallel to reduce the programme.</p> <p>It was requested that a timetable of all works in Chelmsford over the next five years be presented at the Taskforce as concerns were raised about the potential for a number</p>

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	<p>of projects to be under construction at the same time and the impact this may have on the network.</p>
4	<p>Communication and Engagement Activity</p> <p>The Taskforce was briefed about the planned communications for the flyover removal, including communication of the works schedule, regular progress updates, and a competition for schoolchildren.</p> <p>The Taskforce was also briefed on the planned approach to engagement on the long-term project, including workshops with key partners in the Spring and Autumn of this year (2020) and public consultation in Spring 2021.</p> <p>The importance of public acceptability and having communications focused on the long-term vision was emphasised, together with the need to continue keeping key partners informed.</p> <p>KB agreed and emphasised the importance of this aspect of the project.</p> <p>The Taskforce discussed more options for communications going forward, including the potential for engagement with schools, not having consultation events solely during working hours and encouraging sign-ups to the Army and Navy e-newsletter.</p>
5	<p>AOB</p> <p>It was agreed that landscaping of the roundabout should be considered as part of any solution to ensure that it is an “attractive” gateway into Chelmsford.</p> <p>SR mentioned that Chelmsford City Council were hosting the Essex 2020 Skills event at Hylands Park in July and it would be good if Essex Highways could be involved.</p>