

# A45/A6 Chowns Mill junction improvement

## Public information exhibition





## Introduction

### Investing in our roads

At Highways England we believe in a connected country and our network makes these connections happen. We strive to improve our major roads and motorways – engineering the future to keep people moving today and moving better tomorrow. We want to make sure all our major roads are more dependable, durable and, most importantly, safe. That's why we're delivering £15 billion of investment on our network – the largest investment in a generation. The Chowns Mill improvement scheme is a critical part of this investment and will improve journeys along the A45 and A6 corridors, which is great news for the local and regional economy.

In this brochure we explain our proposed improvements for the A45/A6 Chowns Mill junction.

### Public information exhibitions

One of the best ways to find out more is to come to one of our public information exhibitions, where you'll be able to find out more about the scheme and speak to members of the project team who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Date:** Friday 6 April 2018

**Time:** 2pm - 8pm

**Location:**

Park Road Baptist Church, Park Road,  
Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 0RG

**Date:** Saturday 7 April 2018

**Time:** 10am - 4pm

**Location:**

Park Road Baptist Church, Park Road,  
Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 0RG

# Why is the scheme needed?

The A45 is a key link between the A14 and M1, serving the growing Northampton, Wellingborough and Rushden areas. Current levels of congestion are having a serious effect on communities and businesses, and could constrain future development in the area. Chowns Mill is junction 18 of the A45 and has a roundabout between the A45, the A6 and the A5028 Station Road, into the town of Higham Ferrers. The roundabout suffers from severe congestion at peak travel times;

leading to long queues on all approaches. This congestion will increase as traffic levels grow.

We have developed a scheme to improve the Chowns Mill roundabout, which will include widening the A45 and A6 approaches to provide additional traffic lanes, creating an additional roundabout section on the south side of the existing roundabout, and introducing traffic signals to manage traffic safely and effectively.

# What are the benefits?

The upgrade of the Chowns Mill roundabout will lead to more reliable and safer journeys for people and businesses, by reducing congestion and providing more capacity on the road. Improving the junction will:

**Improve journey times:** Upgrading the Chowns Mill roundabout will improve journey time reliability through the junction by providing additional lanes.

**Improve safety:** The scheme will improve safety by changing the junction layout and introducing traffic signals – managing the flow of traffic through the junction more effectively and reducing conflicts between turning traffic.

**Support economic growth:** Current congestion and journey time reliability issues are significant constraints to future investment and economic growth. An improvement to the junction will encourage continued investment in the regional economy and support new corporate, commercial and residential opportunities.

## **Improve access for non-motorised users (NMUs):**

New signalled crossings will be built for cyclists and pedestrians to make it safer to cross the junction. All crossing points will be designed for users with disabilities.

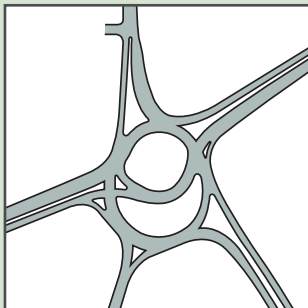
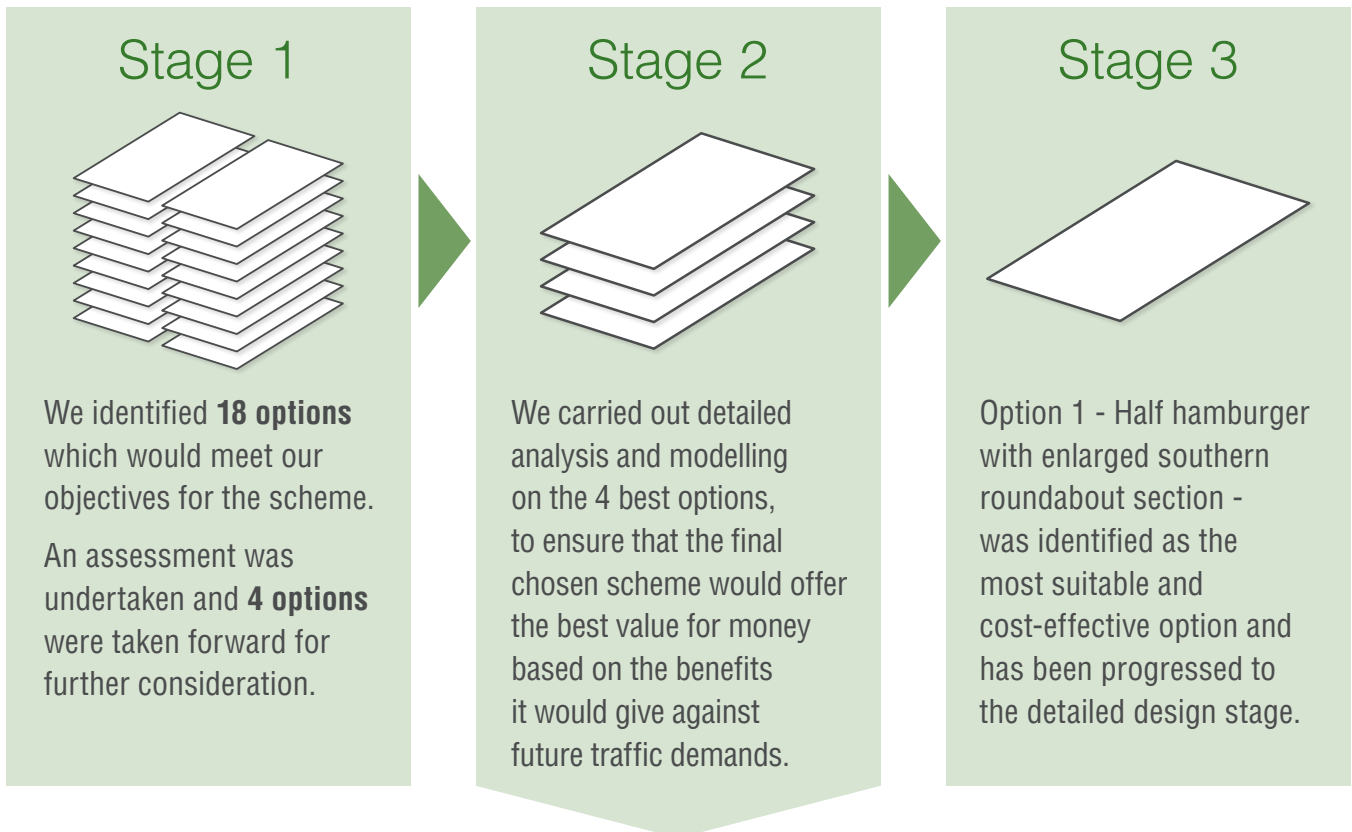
**Environment:** We will work to minimise our impact on the environment and enhance environmental features where possible; such as introducing new planting to enhance the junction and NMU routes.



**Westbound approach to junction with roundabout showing cycle crossings**

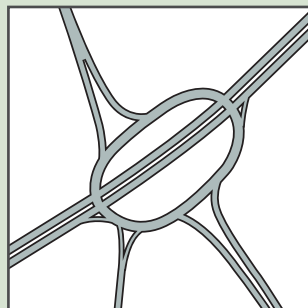
# Progress so far

We have been working hard to progress the scheme design:



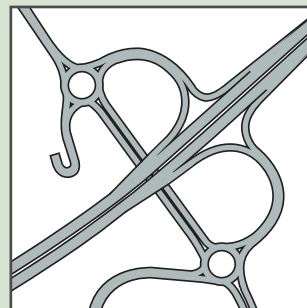
## Option 1: Half hamburger with enlarged southern roundabout section

- No land take required
- Potential to impact environmentally sensitive areas
- Difficult traffic management phases required



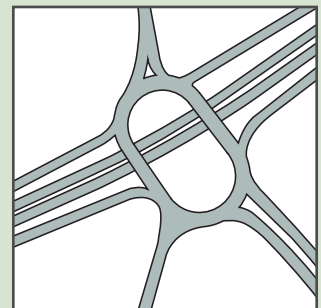
## Option 2: Large hamburger roundabout

- Large amount of land take required
- Potential to impact environmentally sensitive areas
- Increased journey times



## Option 3: Compact grade separated junction

- Large amount of land take required
- Visually intrusive and impacts local environment
- Long design and construction phase



## Option 4: Full grade separated junction

- Large amount of land take required
- Generates noise pollution, visually intrusive and impacts local environment
- Significantly exceeds budget
- Long design and construction phase



## Our proposal

We are proposing to improve the existing roundabout at Chowns Mill, which will include widening the A45 and A6 approaches to provide additional traffic lanes, creating an additional roundabout section on the south side of the existing roundabout, and introducing traffic signals to manage traffic safely and effectively:

- The roundabout will be redesigned as a half hamburger layout with a new link road connecting the A6 North and A5028 with the existing roundabout. This will improve the existing junction to allow better flow of traffic reducing congestion through the junction.
- All approaches to the junction will be widened to provide extra lanes and increase capacity for traffic travelling through the junction. Partial signalisation of the junction will ensure better management of traffic, reducing turning conflicts, improving safety, and increasing capacity.
- New signalled crossings will be built to make it safer for cyclists and pedestrians to cross the junction. All crossing points will be designed for users with disabilities.

### Environmental and local impacts

We are currently carrying out environmental assessments to look at how the scheme will affect air quality, traffic flow, noise and the local landscape, and what we can do to minimise this.

- We will not need to purchase any additional land and will carry out the improvements to the junction within existing highways boundaries.
- We will assess the noise and vibration impacts of the project throughout construction and will work hard to keep this to a minimum.
- During construction, local residents and the travelling public may experience adverse impacts, such as increased noise and delays to their journey. We will work hard to minimise disruption wherever possible.
- Some existing vegetation will need to be removed during construction which may change the local landscape. We will carry out replanting around the junction, which will be designed to blend the scheme into the wider landscape.
- There are ecologically important sites in the area including the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar and sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) that may be affected by the works. Where species are identified, we will put in place measures to reduce the impacts of our works, for example we would ensure vegetation clearance would take place outside of the nesting bird season.
- We will take all opportunities to re-use materials and use sustainable construction methods.
- We will reduce energy emissions by using LED bulbs in all new street lights and traffic signals.

# Next steps

Detailed design of the chosen option is now being progressed with input from experienced contractors to ensure the scheme can be built with the least impact on local communities and the travelling public.

We will complete the detailed design by autumn 2018 and plan to start construction work in late 2019. We will hold further public information events before the main works start to keep you updated.

**If you have any queries about this scheme please email us at:**

[infoa45chowsmill@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:infoa45chowsmill@highwaysengland.co.uk)

**or visit our website where you can also sign up for email alerts:**

[www.highways.gov.uk/A45chowns-mill](http://www.highways.gov.uk/A45chowns-mill)

**Write to:**

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