



Planning Application: 2016/92298

Former North Bierley Waste Water Treatment Works, Bradford

Position Statement Regarding Access to the Strategic Road Network

Background

Highways England, formerly the Highways Agency, is a strategic highway company appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in England. The SRN is a critical national asset and as such we work to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

Policy Regarding Provision of Access

Policy regarding the provision of new accesses at the SRN is set out in the extant Department for Transport (DfT) Circular 02/2013: The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development, and is maintained within Highways England's draft emerging replacement document: The Strategic Road Network – Planning for the Future.

Within Circular 02/2013 paragraph 42 states that:

Access to motorways and routes of near motorway standard for other types of development¹ will be limited to the use of existing junctions with all-purpose roads. Modifications to existing junctions will be agreed where these do not have an adverse impact on traffic flows and safety. In line with the standards contained in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, for safety and operational reasons, direct connections to slip roads and/or connector roads will not be permitted.

Proposed Access Arrangements

Options by which access could be provided to the application site are considered within AECOM's Highways and Transportation - Clarification of Impacts / Issues note, dated 14 February 2018. Within this note four options are identified as:

Option 1: Access via Mill Carr Hill Road and Bradford Road;

Option 2: Access from the M606 via a new junction onto the motorway;

Option 3: Access from Bradford Road via a new bridge across the M606;

¹ Identified and developed at the Plan-making stage in circumstances where it can be established that such new infrastructure is essential for the delivery of strategic planned growth and other than signed roadside facilities for road users and maintenance compounds.

Option 4: An access directly to and from the circulatory roundabout at Junction 27 of the M62 (Chain Bar).

The indicative layouts are shown on the appended Former North Bierley Waste Water Treatment Works – Highway Design Options. It should be noted that the layout for Option 4 actually represents an access from and to the free-flow left-turn provision between the M606 southbound and M62 eastbound slip-roads, rather than access onto the circulating carriageway of the M62 Junction 27 Chain Bar roundabout.

With reference to the policy outlines above, Option 2 and Option 4 would not be permitted by Highways England as they represent a new junction with a motorway and access from a slip-road, respectively, irrespective of other matters, such as compliance with design standards and / or capacity and safety.

The AECOM note's identification that "no access to the site could be achieved directly from the M606" in response to Option 2 is accurate. Equally, the AECOM note's identification that "due to technical and policy reasons an access cannot be gained onto the M62 Junction 26 circulatory carriageway" regarding Option 4, is also accurate.

Regarding Option 3 - access from Bradford Road via a new bridge across the M606 in addition to the viability issues identified with this option by AECOM, Highways England would resist such a provision due to maintenance and liability.

Conclusions

Access Option 2, 3 and 4 would prove unacceptable to Highways England for the reasons set out above.

FORMER NORTH BIERLEY WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS HIGHWAY DESIGN OPTIONS

Site Overview



Existing access



New sliproad from M606 (discounted)



New bridge over M606 (discounted)



New access from Chain Bar Roundabout (discounted)

