





On the 15th of November the Department of Transport published their proposed preferred route for HS2 Phase 2b from Crewe to Manchester and the West Midlands to Leeds part of the route.

The announcement confirms the following:

WESTERN LEG

- HS2 will continue north from Crewe to Manchester Airport and on to Manchester City Centre, with new stations at Manchester Piccadilly and Manchester Airport and a connection to West Coast Main Line (WCML) at Golborne.
- There will be a connection to Liverpool and to existing West Coast main line allowing HS2 services to continue north , serving stations to Glasgow and Edinburgh.

EASTERN LEG

- HS2 will continue from the West Midlands to Toton in the East Midlands, where a new HS2 station will be built to serve Nottingham, Derby and wider region;
- HS2 will continue north from the East Midlands to South Yorkshire;
- HS2 should serve Sheffield with a connection to the existing station with the main route being moved further east, further consultation needed before a final decision will be made, currently envisaged to be in 2017;
- HS2 will continue from South Yorkshire to Leeds where a new HS2 station will be built in Leeds City Centre, adjacent to the existing station;
- HS2 will also have a connection onto the East Coast main line allowing HS2 to serve York, Newcastle and other places in the north-east.

UNDER CONSULTATION

The following are also being consulted upon with the final decision to be announced in 2017:

- Moving the proposed rolling stock depot at Golborne to a site north of Crewe between the A530 Nantwich Road and the West Coast Main Line near Wimboldsley;
- To move the approach to Manchester Piccadilly up to 370 metres eastwards with the northern tunnel portal in Ardwick, to avoid direct impacts on residential properties and a school at West Gorton;
- To change the route over 26km in Middlewich – Northwich area up to 800 metres westwards;
- To move the route to the east of Measham in Leicestershire, avoiding the most significant impacts on local manufacturing businesses and development sites;
- To go around to the east of the A42 instead of tunnel under the East Midlands Airport;
- To amend the alignment of the preferred route as it passes through Long Eaton to reduce severance in the local community and reduce impact on the highway network and existing rail infrastructure; two options are being considered for this with both options going through Long Eaton either on a high level viaduct or on an embankment at lower level;
- To move the alignment of the route from Derbyshire to West Yorkshire to reflect a change in the proposals for serving the Sheffield city region;

The consultation is open until 9 March 2017.

DISCRETIONARY PROPERTY SCHEMES:

The following are also being consulted upon with the final decision to be announced in 2017:

The government will be consulting on proposals, from November 2016, for two schemes, the Express Purchase and the Need to Sell.

Phase 1 London to Birmingham

The Lords Select Committee is continuing to hear petitions since September and is programmed to hear further petitions at least until early December. Current estimate is that the final report of the Lords will be published in the New Year, although HS2 still says that it is hoping to secure royal assent by the end of the year.

Many local authorities have signed up to the Planning Memorandum to become Qualifying Authorities in due course which will give them more powers when considering submissions under Schedule 17 of the Act when the delivery stage of the Phase begins in earnest next year. Authorities will have to have sorted out their decision-making processes for this new regime and made the relevant constitutional changes in order to be able to determine the submissions.

In addition, companies have been awarded the Phase One enabling works contracts and many people are now witnessing the arrival of contractors conducting Early Works and ground investigations work.

There is a lot of work being done by local authorities to put in place resources to undertake the work, follow governance procedures to ensure proper and sound decision making processes are in place and forward-planning the work.

Lessons Learnt

We have been actively involved throughout the Phase One process for a number of authorities, in drafting responses to consultation exercises, the petitioning process and advising on securing the best mitigation. Whether you are a local authority, parish council, local group, business or individual, if you want to discuss your concerns, please get in touch with our Head of Planning, Ifath Nawaz by writing to her at inawaz@setfords.co.uk