

M56

New Junction 11a

Public consultation



January – February 2017

M56 New Junction 11a

Public consultation

The scheme

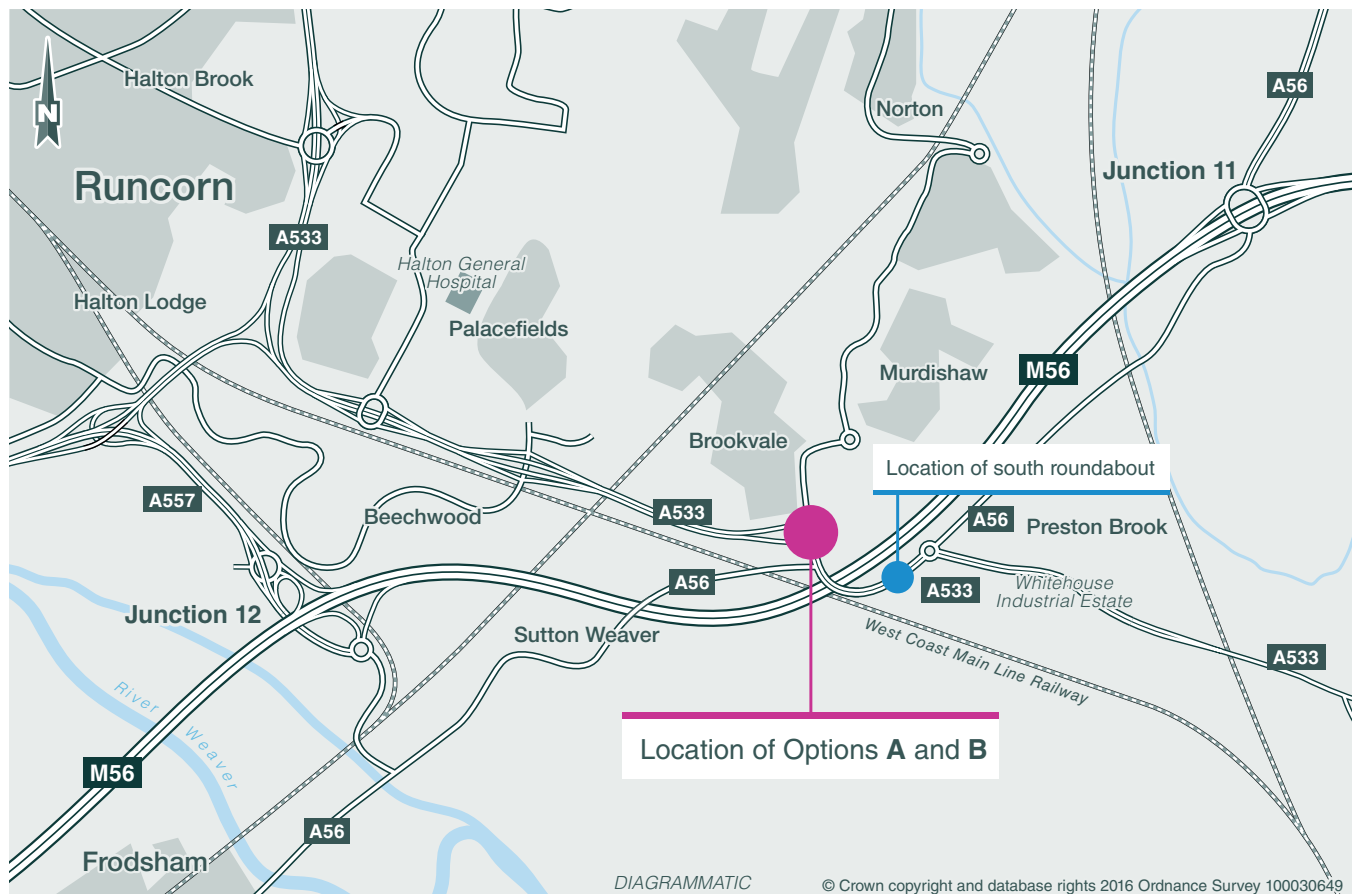
In autumn 2014, the government announced the first Road Investment Strategy which included a new junction between junctions 11 and 12 on the M56. The purpose of the additional junction is to create an improved link to the new Mersey Gateway Bridge from the south. The new junction would provide both local and regional benefits.

The new Mersey Gateway bridge represents a £2Bn investment with economic, transport and social benefits, including 4,640 new jobs, reduction in journey times of up to 10 minutes and improvements to public transport facilities. The new junction M56 J11a will play a role in increasing the benefits of the Mersey Gateway, as well as providing better access locally to the M56.

Local benefits

The new junction would:

- Reduce journey times by providing improved access to the M56 from areas such as Murdishaw, Brookvale, Whitehouse Industrial Estate and facilities such as Halton General Hospital.
- Improve the quality of life in Preston Brook by reducing the volume of cars and lorries passing through to access the M56 at Junction 11.



Regional benefits

The new junction would:

- Support economic growth by reducing journey times such as from the South East and locations north of the River Mersey to destinations such as John Lennon Airport.
- Reduce delays by providing increased resilience should congestion build at junctions 11 or 12.

Your input means a lot to us

The options presented in this booklet have been developed following the public awareness exhibition in September 2016. Over 300 people attended the event and provided a range of comments that were considered when we were shortlisting the options.

We're now launching the public consultation on the shortlisted options. We'd like to hear your views on the options, as well as views from local

government and businesses. The consultation will help us further refine options and select the best performing option to take forward to the next stage of design.

This is your opportunity to tell us what you think of the proposals, what works, what concerns you may have, and give us any local or specialist knowledge that may help us to improve the options.

Details of how to respond are at the back of this booklet.

The consultation will run for 6 weeks, starting Monday 16 January 2017 and closing Monday 27 February 2017.

The options

Option A – Upgrading Murdishaw roundabout into a through-about

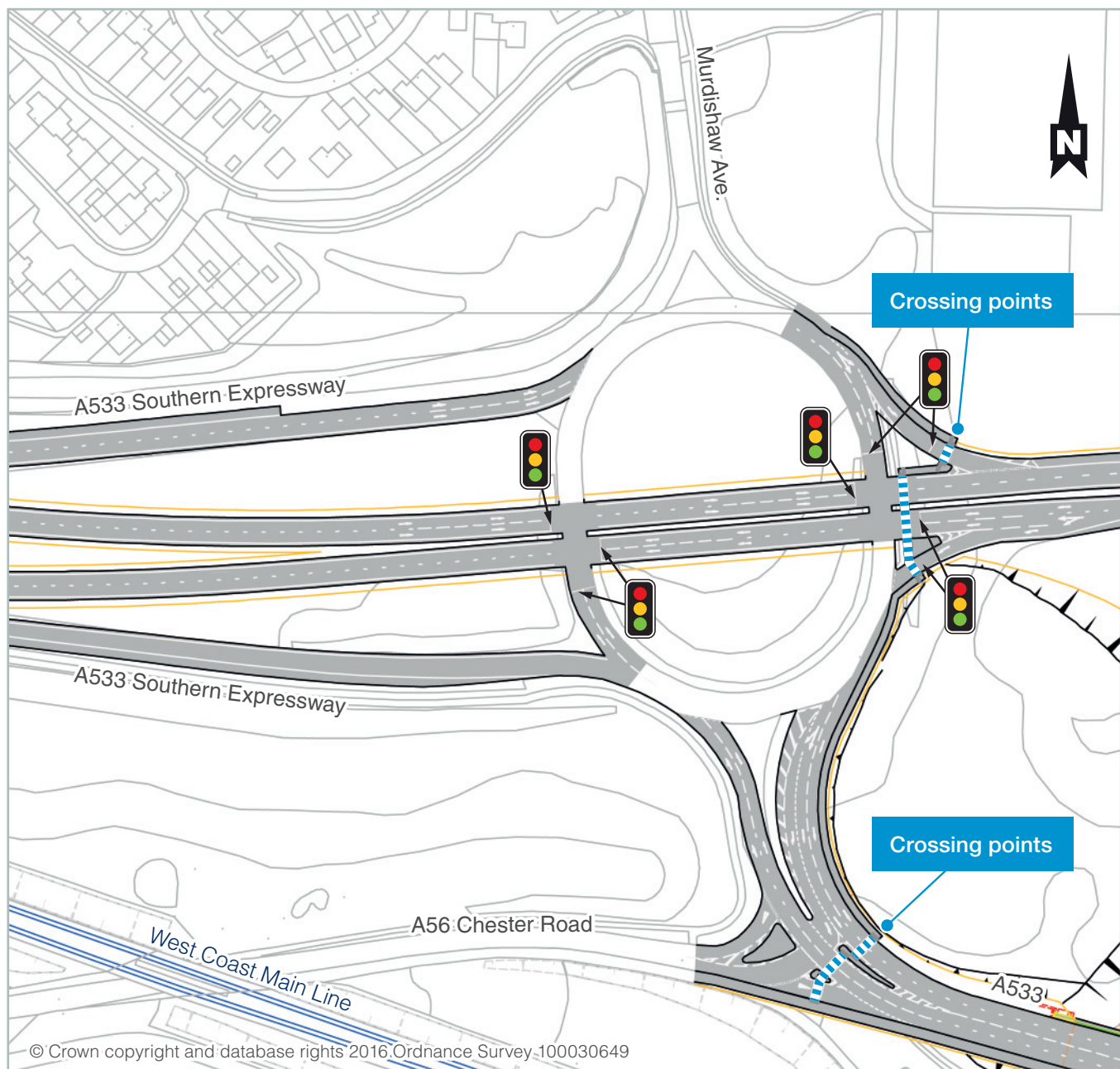
Option B – Converting Murdishaw roundabout into a signalised crossroad

Option A

Upgrading Murdishaw roundabout into a through-about

This option was previously presented at the public information event, and involves upgrading the Murdishaw roundabout into a through-about. A through-about is a roundabout design in which the major road runs through the middle of the roundabout, with signal controls at the intersection of each roundabout arm.

In this case, the A533 Southern Expressway would be re-aligned to run through the Murdishaw roundabout, which would connect to the eastbound M56 slip roads, further information will be presented at the public exhibition events to demonstrate how the junction would work.



Option B

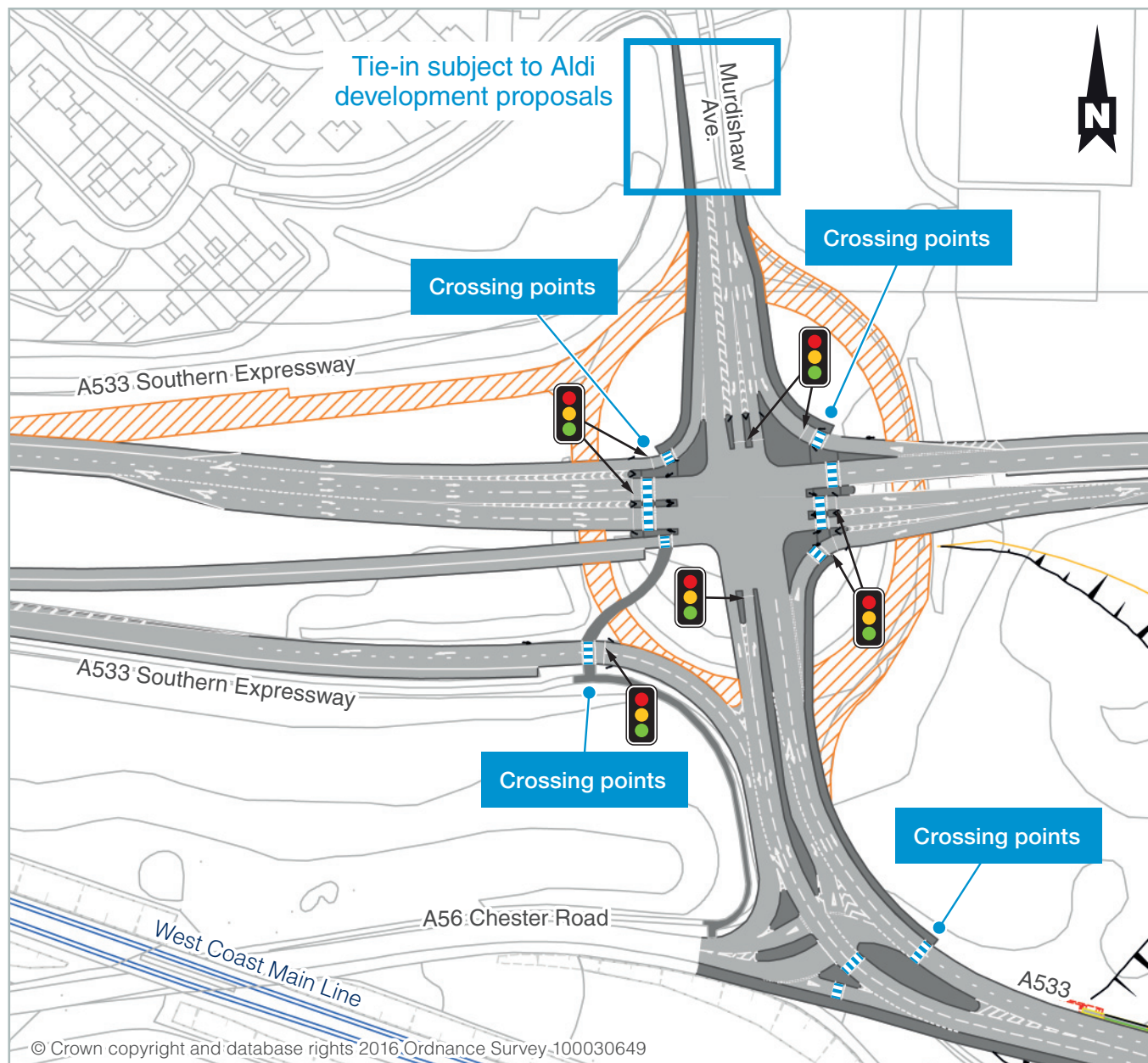
Converting Murdishaw roundabout into a signalised crossroad

This option would convert the existing Murdishaw roundabout into a fully signalised 4-way crossroads junction catering for all traffic movements.

The A533 Southern Expressway would be realigned slightly to connect to the junction and M56 slip roads. The southbound approach from Murdishaw Avenue would widen to 3-lanes, allowing a full lane for each turning movement,

including a right lane for the A533 Southern Expressway, a straight-ahead lane to Chester Road/A533 and a left lane to the motorway. The orange hatched area represents the current road that would be taken up and not replaced.

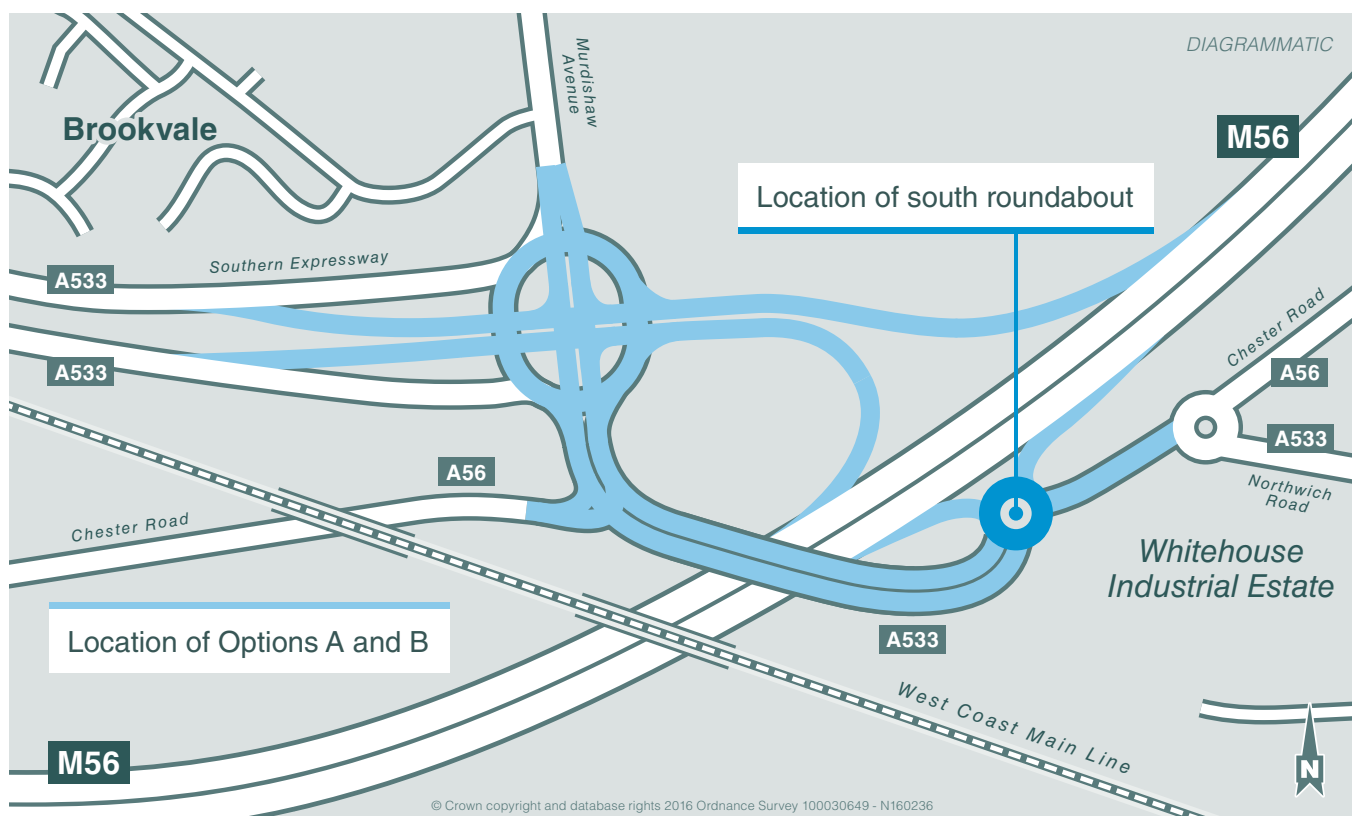
Pedestrian and cycle routes would be reinstated across the junction through crossing points at each stop line connecting to the existing routes.



New south roundabout

In addition to a new Junction 11a, we are also proposing a new roundabout to the south be constructed. This roundabout would connect the westbound off and on-slips to the A56/A533 Chester Road. The approach from the existing Northwich Road/Chester Road roundabout would be widened to 2 lanes westbound to provide

more capacity. To the west of the new south roundabout, the road would travel over the new A533 Expressway Bridge connecting to the Murdishaw roundabout. As you can see in the plan below, the south roundabout is a feature of both options.



M56 New Junction 11a

Public consultation questionnaire

We want to understand your views about the two options for improvement at Junction 11a. Please tell us your views by completing this short questionnaire here or online at <http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/m56-new-junction-11a/>

If you're returning this to us by post, please follow the folding instructions on the back page of the questionnaire and pop it in the post.

Please submit your completed questionnaire by 27 February 2017.

Please provide us with your name and address.

If you'd prefer for your comments to be anonymous, please just provide your postcode.

Name:

Address:

..... Postcode:

1. Do you regularly use the M56?

Yes No

2. Why do you use the M56? (tick all that apply):

Business Leisure Education/School run
 Commute to work Other (please state):

.....

3. How often do you use the M56? (tick one only)

Daily More than once a day Weekly More than once a week
 Monthly Less than once a month

4. Which junction do you use more often? (tick one only)

Junction 11 (Daresbury Park) Junction 12 (Weston Point)

5. What is your main way of travel on this route? (tick one only)

Car HGV/LGV Motorbike Other (please state)

.....

6. Which other routes do you regularly use? (tick all that apply)

- Murdishaw Avenue
- A533 Southern Expressway
- A56 Chester Road/A533 Northwich Road
- A56 Chester Road (Sutton Weaver)

7. Why do you use these other routes (tick all that apply)

- Residential
- Business
- Leisure
- Education/School run
- Commute to work
- Other (please state):

.....

8. How often do you use these other routes (tick one only)

- Daily
- More than once a day
- Weekly
- More than once a week
- Monthly
- Less than once a month

9. What is your main way of travel on these other routes? (tick one only)

- Car
- Bus
- Bicycle
- Walk
- HGV/LGV
- Motorbike
- Other (please state)

.....

10. To get to the M56, would you expect to use the new Junction 11a more than Junctions 11 or 12? (tick one only).

- Yes
- No
- I don't use the M56

11. Which option do you prefer? (see pages 4 and 5 of the booklet) (tick one only)

- Option 1 (Through-about)
- Option 2 (signalised junction)
- No preference

Please give a reason for your answer:

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12. In your opinion which option is best for:

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Journey times (reduced delays and congestion) | <input type="checkbox"/> A | <input type="checkbox"/> B | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
| Cyclists | <input type="checkbox"/> A | <input type="checkbox"/> B | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
| Pedestrians..... | <input type="checkbox"/> A | <input type="checkbox"/> B | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
| Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> A | <input type="checkbox"/> B | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
| Visual impact..... | <input type="checkbox"/> A | <input type="checkbox"/> B | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |

Please give a reason for your answer for your preference of Option 1 or Option 2.

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For each of the following questions below please tick the box that best reflects the degree to which you agree with the statement.

13. The new junction 11a will improve journey times on the M56.
Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree
14. The new junction 11a will improve journey times on local roads.
Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree
15. The new junction 11a will improve safety.
Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree
16. The new junction 11a will make the corridor along the M56 more resilient.
Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree
17. A new junction is required to provide better access to the Mersey Gateway bridge.
Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

Please give a reason for your answer:

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This section is optional but we'd be grateful if you'd tell us a little about yourself so that we understand more about the community we serve. We will not share your personal information nor will we contact you or use it for any other purpose.

- i. Your gender?
 Male Female Prefer not to say
- ii. Your age?
 16-24 25-34 35-44
 45-54 55-64 65+ Prefer not to say
- iii. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?
 Yes No Prefer not to say
- iv. Did you attend one of the consultation events?
 Yes No

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on Highways England.

Highways England will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and in the majority of circumstances; this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties. Confidential responses will be included in any statistical summary of number of comments and views expressed.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Fold B



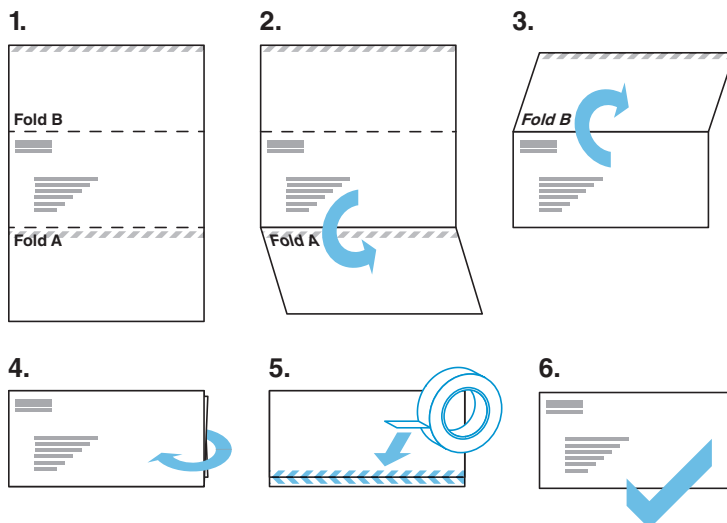
Freepost Plus RTXA-RSKX-BCAA
M56 Junction 11A Scheme
Highways England
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
MANCHESTER
M1 2WD

Fold A

Folding instructions

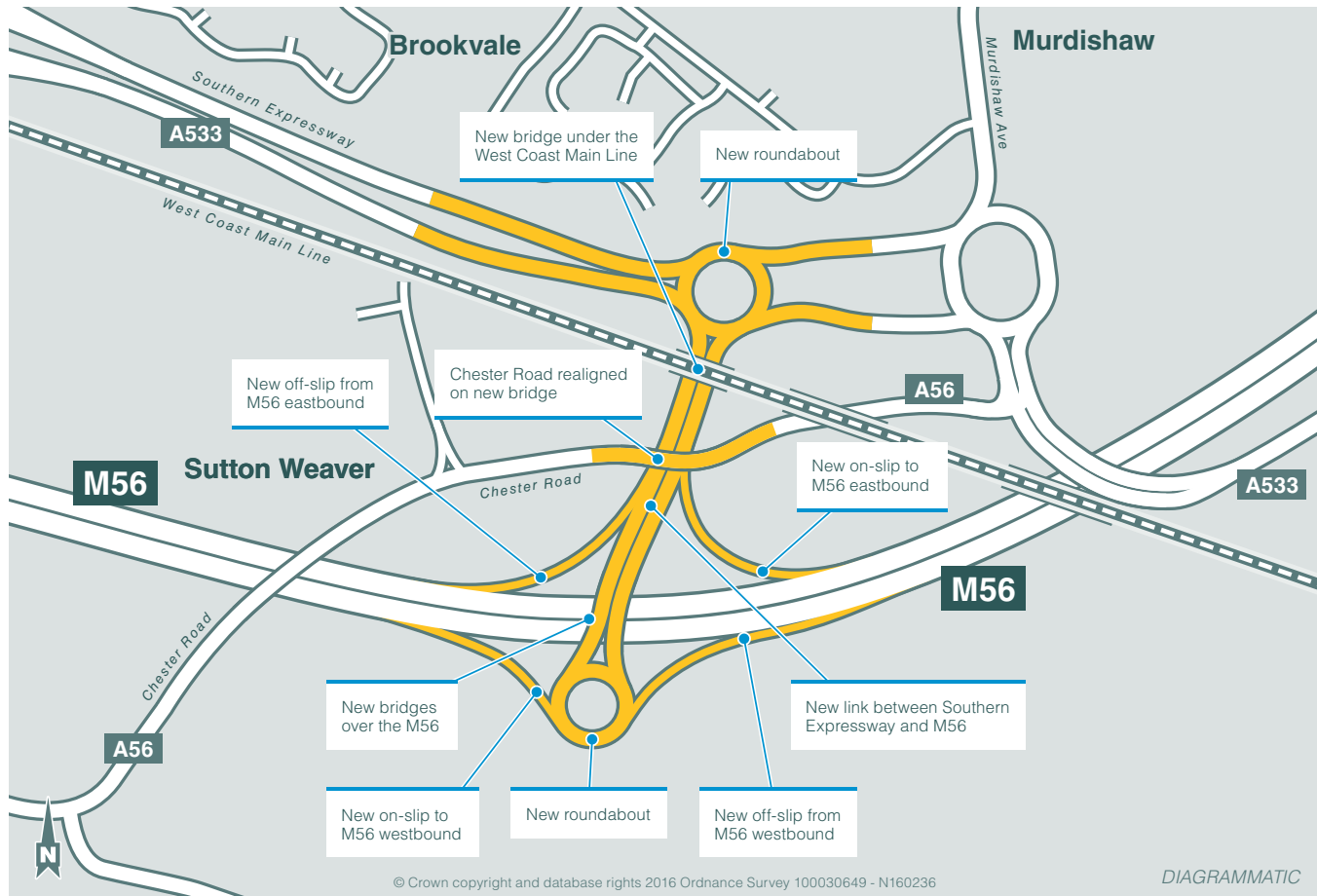
Once you've completed the questionnaire please follow these instructions before returning it to us:

1. With the return address facing you...
2. fold the bottom part backwards along Fold A;
3. fold the top part backwards along Fold B;
4. turn the folded questionnaire over; and
5. secure it by sticking clear tape along the length of hatched area.
6. There's no need for a stamp, just pop it in the post.



Discounted option

Following feedback from the public information exhibition held in September 2016 and the estimated cost to build the ‘West Option’, this option has now been discounted. A plan showing the discounted option is below.



Benefits and effects of the proposed options

In assessing the benefits and effects of the proposed options, we look at a variety of topics including those listed below.

As this consultation is taking place at an early stage in the overall project, this information is still being developed as further surveys and assessments are carried out. It is worth noting that environmental impacts are assessed based on national guidance.

Feature	Benefits and effects
Air quality	Studies using initial traffic data suggest that the A56 Chester Road is the only affected road with properties which may experience a small change in air quality. Similar results are expected for both options .
Cultural heritage	There would be no direct physical impacts to designated heritage assets (e.g. scheduled monuments and listed buildings) for either option.

Feature	Benefits and effects
Landscape	There are very few properties along the A533 that would have views of the proposed options. We will look at steps we can take to reduce any impacts once a preferred option is selected.
Nature conservation	To date an ecological survey, a woodland survey and great crested newt surveys have been carried out within the study area. Following the selection of the preferred option, further surveys would be undertaken. Surveys would include those for further great crested newts, breeding birds, bats, badgers and within the woodland at Murdishaw. Impacts on nature conservation would be very similar for both options.
Geology and soils	The options pass through land that is designated as land primarily used for non-agricultural purposes. Therefore, there would be no loss of agricultural land.
Noise and vibration	Road traffic noise is predicted to decrease at properties near Junction 12. Small noise increases would be experienced at properties along the Southern Expressway and near the A533 Northwich Road roundabout.
Safety and effects on all travellers	The new junction aims to support the Mersey Gateway Scheme by providing a direct route to/from the motorway, improving the overall robustness and resilience of the network. This will also help to reduce congestion along this busy section of road and provide an alternative diversion when incidents occur. Improved signing will be introduced to inform the M56 mainline road users of the reduced link lengths between junctions.
Community and private assets including land take	The new junction would require land take on both sides of the motorway mainline. To the north side, some land would be required from the baseball pitch in the sports grounds and some loss of woodland would occur to Murdishaw Woods and in the middle of the Southern Expressway. To the south there are both residential and commercial properties that may be affected depending on the final design. The land required will be the same or very similar for both options.
Road drainage and the water environment	Neither option is in a flood zone. Drainage would be designed in a way that would not lead to adverse effects on the water environment (including run off) and would meet nationally acceptable standards. Suitable measures would be incorporated into the scheme design to minimise impacts. For example, an attenuation pond could be incorporated in between the two north slip roads to help the highway drainage.
Construction duration	We expect that the construction would start by March 2020 with a construction period of approximately 2 years for both options. However, a large proportion of works would take place away from the M56 so disruption would be limited.

Options comparison

	Option A	Option B
	Through-about	Signalised crossroads
Improvement to regional journey times	✓✓	✓✓
Improvement to local journey times	✓✓	✓✓✓
Area of land take required	Moderate	Moderate
Cost to construct	££	££
Time to construct	2 years	2 years
Disruption during construction to residents and businesses	Moderate	Moderate
Disruption during construction to traffic	Moderate	Moderate to High

Currently, both options are not affordable within the scheme budget. We will continue to look for ways to reduce the costs to an affordable level, to allow the preferred scheme to be constructed.

Progress so far

Design

In our public information event in September we presented options East and West of the West Coast Mainline. The East option (Option A) is presented in this brochure for your comment but the West option has now been discounted due to the higher costs associated with it and the feedback we received at the public information event.

Option B has been developed to address concerns previously raised around queuing on Murdishaw Avenue.

Ground conditions

Ground conditions can have a big influence on construction costs and therefore we have carried out studies of available information to identify any known ground issues in the local area. More surveys will be required in the future to confirm the ground condition.

Environmental surveys

Our environmental team have carried out preliminary environmental surveys and further work will take place to determine the type of plant and animal life in the area, and identify if any protected species are present. This will help us to understand the environmental impacts and what mitigation may be required. We have identified an area of ancient woodland which we have been able to avoid but the baseball pitch south of the Linnets Football club, and a number of trees in this area will be impacted by both options.

Communicating with local government

Local authorities (Halton Borough Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council) have been consulted during the options development stage. We are also in discussions with parish councils in Preston Brook and Sutton Weaver to keep them informed and gain their feedback.

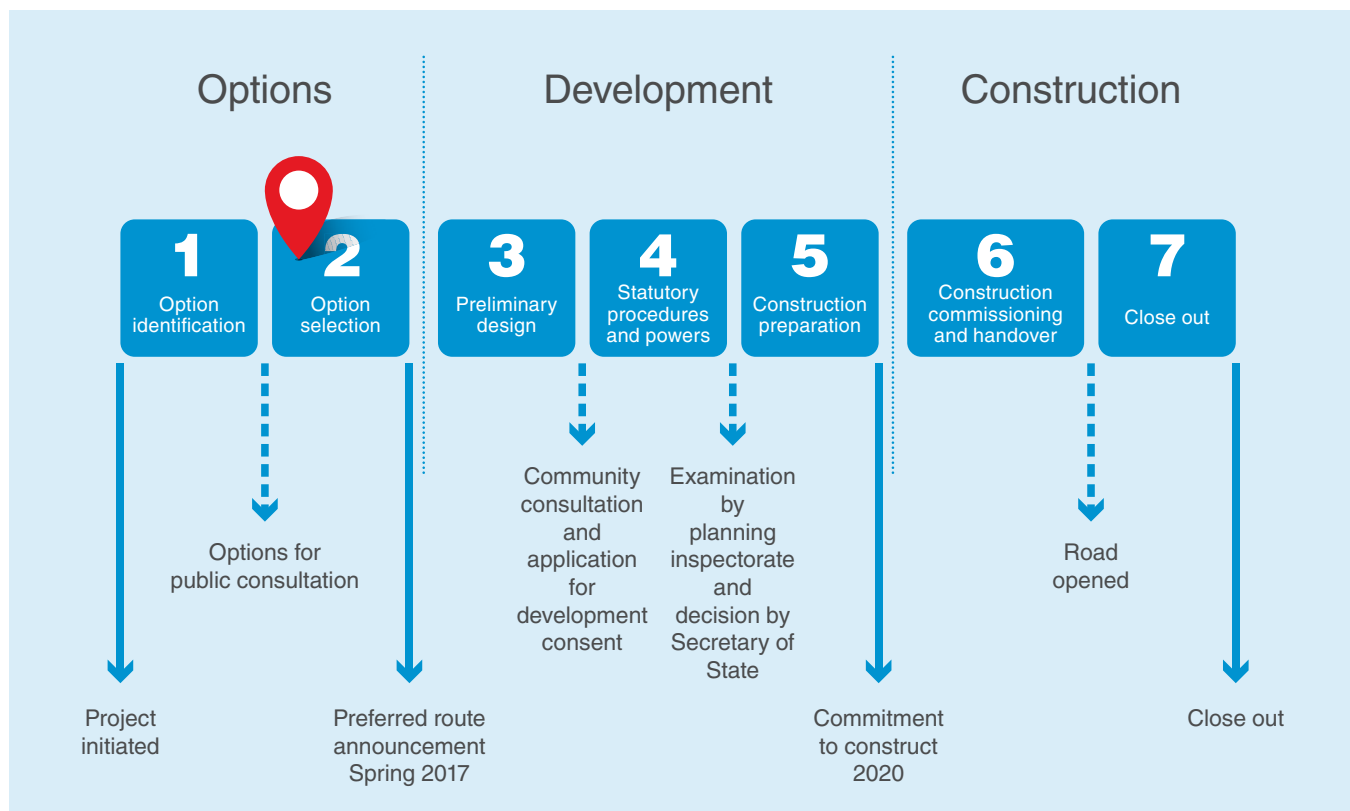
Next steps

Once the consultation has closed on 27 February 2017, all responses will be analysed and compiled into a consultation report summarising the feedback received. We will then refine the option designs, incorporating the comments provided where practicable and complete our assessment work.

We will then announce the preferred route for the junction in spring 2017.

Following this announcement we will carry out further surveys and investigations to inform the detailed design. We will consult again on the detailed proposals when you will have another opportunity to give us your views on the selected option and how we carry out the work.

We expect work to start by the end of March 2020.



How to respond

Please respond using one of the following channels by 27 February 2017.

Online: complete the questionnaire online at <http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/m56-new-junction-11a/>

Email: you can email your response to M56NewJunction11A@highwaysengland.co.uk

Post: you can write to us at [New M56 Junction 11A, Highways England Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester M1 2WD](#)

A hard copy questionnaire can be found with this document, or you can download it at <http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/m56-new-junction-11a/>

If a response is sent to any address other than the ones set out above, we cannot guarantee that it will be considered as part of the consultation process.

All responses should be returned by 27 February 2017.

Public exhibitions

We are holding public exhibitions to provide information about the scheme and answer any of your questions:

Monday 23 January, 3pm to 8pm

Murdishaw Community Centre

Barnfield Ave, Runcorn, WA7 6EP

Saturday 28 January, 10am to 4pm

Preston Brook Village Hall

Sandy Lane, Preston Brook, Runcorn, WA7 3AW

Tuesday 31 January, 10.30am to 1.30pm

Halton General Hospital

Hospital Way, Runcorn, WA7 2DA

Wednesday 1 February, 4pm to 8pm

Holiday Inn Runcorn

Wood Lane, Beechwood, WA7 3HA

For more information please visit our website where you can also sign up for email alerts whenever the webpage is updated. If you have any queries about this improvement scheme please contact the project team directly by calling **0300 470 2733** or emailing M56NewJunction11A@highwaysengland.co.uk

Public viewing places

Consultation brochures will also be available at the following locations from 16 January 2017

- Preston Brook Village Hall
- Murdishaw Community Centre
- Brookvale Recreation Centre
- Beechwood Community Centre
- Frodsham Community Centre
- Frodsham Library
- Halton Lea Library
- Asda Runcorn Superstore

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.



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This document is also available on our website at www.gov.uk/highways

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