



11<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Agenda Item: 12

## **REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS**

### **EAST COAST MAIN LINE LEVEL CROSSING CLOSURES FEASIBILITY STUDY – UPDATE**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide further details and an update on the feasibility study being undertaken by Network Rail on Level Crossing Closures along the East Coast Main Line (London to Doncaster).

#### **Background**

2. Members may recall that in June 2014 a briefing note was sent out informing that Network Rail were embarking on a series of feasibility studies to explore options for the closure of level crossings on the East Coast Main Line. This report provides a project overview, an update on the progress of the study and sets out Network Rail's proposed programme, for level crossings within Nottinghamshire.

#### **Project Overview**

3. The feasibility study forms part of the ongoing commitment by Network Rail to deliver a more efficient, reliable and safer railway coupled with the Government buying new trains for the East Coast Main Line in order to introduce a 140mph railway and decrease journey times. Measures have already been taken to close many level crossings across the rail network and improve people's understanding of their potential dangers. Faster trains will require, amongst other things, making other arrangements where there are currently level crossings, including replacing many of them with bridges. Following consultation scheme options will be identified. Network Rail intend on seeking to close the crossings by means of applications for the requisite powers under the Transport and Works Act 1992. It is important to stress that Network Rail has statutory obligations to maintain connectivity for public highways, bridleways, footpaths and private access where it currently exists. If Network Rail wishes to close any crossing it must make proper alternative arrangement such as a bridge, unless there is no longer any need for a particular crossing.
4. Network Rail have appointed consultants to develop and lead the study. Mott MacDonald is focusing on crossings in Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Doncaster whilst the WSP consider crossings in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

5. The County Council is a consultee and will make comment both through the formal consultation process and through meetings between Network Rail, Mott MacDonald and officers from Nottinghamshire.
6. The crossings within Nottinghamshire included within this study are shown on the enclosed drawing NCC-ECMLFS-001 and are listed below:

<b>Level Crossing Name</b>	<b>Location – NCC Interest</b>
Scrooby	Station Road, Scrooby – Private & Public Footpath
School Lane	School Lane, Scrooby – Public Footpath
Thomson	South of Scrooby - Private Crossing
Ranskill	Station Road, Ranskill – Public Highway
Torworth	Daneshill Road, Torworth – Public Highway
Sutton-cum-Lound	Station Road, Sutton-cum-Lound – Public Highway
Botany Bay	Sutton Lane (south of Great North Road, south of Sutton-cum-Lound) – Public Highway
Grove Road	Grove Road, Retford – Public Highway
Easton Lane	Easton Road, Retford – Public Footpath
Gamston Lane	Gamston Lane, Retford – Public Footpath
Egmanton	Tuxford Road, north of Weston – Public Highway
Grassthorpe Lane	Grassthorpe Lane (north of Sutton-on-Trent) – Public Highway & Footpath
Barrel Lane	Barrel Lane, Sutton-on-Trent – Public Footpath
Eaves Lane	Eaves Lane, Sutton-on-Trent – Public footpath
Carlton	Ossington Road, Carlton – Public Highway
Flyfish Lane	Flyfish Lane, Cromwell – Public Footpath
Cromwell Lane	Cromwell Lane, Cromwell – Public Highway
Cromwell	South of Norwell Lane - Private footpath
Norwell Lane	Norwell Lane, Cromwell – Public Highway
North Muskham	South of Vicarage Lane – Public Footpath
Bathley Lane	Bathley Lane, North Muskham – Public Highway
Church Lane	Church Lane, South Muskham – Public Highway
Whitehouses Lane	Whitehouses Lane, Newark – Public Footpath
Barnby	Barnby Lane, Newark – Public Highway
Bullpit Lane	Bullpit Lane, Newark –Public Highway

## **Project Overview**

7. The first consultation was undertaken between 6<sup>th</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 which involved public exhibitions, consultee discussions, invites for Member briefings and an online survey. It is reported that there was good response and public attendance. Comments from all avenues are currently being collated and reviewed by Mott MacDonald. A consultation report will be produced by Mott MacDonald summarising consultation feedback and how it will be used.
8. County Officers have met Mott MacDonald and formed a Technical Working Group where potential options were presented and reviewed with an aim to develop preferred options for each crossing closure. In the main options entail online and offline highway and footpath bridges with lesser highway and footpath diversions and minimal closures using alternative routes. Preferred options, when developed and available, can be viewed via Network Rail's website or made available by highways officers on request.

9. Mott MacDonald intends to use the feedback from this first round of consultation to guide the selection of preferred options. Once identified, a further round of public and key stakeholder consultation will take place in late 2014 which will be analysed in preparation of the Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) application to the Secretary of State, this is to secure the necessary Orders to close the crossings and construct any required replacement infrastructure.

## Proposed Network Rail Programme

10. The following timeline sets out Network Rails indicative programme which may change over the lifetime of the study as details evolve:

<b>Proposed Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Summer 2014	Public Consultation round 1
Summer/Autumn 2014	Analysis of round 1 consultation feedback
Autumn/Winter 2014	Public Consultation round 2
Autumn/Winter 2014	Analysis of round 2 consultation feedback
Spring/Summer 2015	Preparation of TWAO applications
Summer 2015	Submission of TWAO applications
Autumn 2016	Secretary of State decision on approval of TWAOs
2017	Detailed design of approved schemes for implementation
Spring/Summer 2018	Construction starts (subject to consent and funding)
2020	Work completed

## Other Options Considered

11. Other will be considered throughout the feasibility study process.

## Comments from Local Members

12. Local Members have submitted comments direct to Mott McDonald.

## Reasons for Recommendations

13. The recommendations are made in view that this is a project lead by Network Rail.

## Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## Financial Implications

15. There are no direct financial implications as Network Rail will be funding the feasibility study and any subsequent works.

## **Crime and Disorder Implications**

16. Nottinghamshire Police are a statutory consultee.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is **RECOMMENDED** that:

- i) The contents of the report be noted.

**Andrew Warrington**  
**Service Director (Highways)**

### **Name of Report Author**

Mike Barnett

### **Title of Report Author**

Team Manager (Major Projects and Improvements)

### **For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments (SLB 19/08/14)**

17. The report is for noting only.

## **Financial Comments (TMR 01/09/14)**

18. The financial implications are stated in paragraph 15 of the report.

## **Background Papers**

All relevant documents for the proposed scheme are contained within the scheme file which can be found in the Major Projects and Improvements section at Trent Bridge House, Fox Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham.

Network Rails project website:

<https://networkrail.citizenspace.com/communications/east-coast-main-line-level-crossing-closure-study>

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

Blyth & Harworth	Councillor Sheila Place
Misterton	Councillor Liz Yates
Retford East	Councillor Pamela Skelding
Tuxford	Councillor John Ogle
Southwell & Caunton	Councillor Bruce Laughton
Farndon & Muskham	Councillor Sue Saddington
Collingham	Councillor Maureen Dobson
Newark East	Councillor Stuart Wallace
Balderton	Councillor Keith Walker