Targeted consultation

Following our second phase of public consultation we are considering some changes to our plans for the proposed Thames Tunnel project.

Phase two consultation

During our phase two consultation (4 November 2011 – 10 February 2012) we asked for your views on our preferred sites and preferred main tunnel route.

Over the 14 week period we held 57 exhibitions at over 20 locations along the route of the proposed tunnel. Over 2,000 people attended these sessions and there were over 70,000 hits on our website. In addition to this, we held 48 public meetings. In total we received over 6,000 responses – twice the amount we received during our first phase of consultation.

You can find details of the feedback we received and our response to all comments in our Report on phase two consultation, which is available on our website: www.thamestunnelconsultation.co.uk

Statement of community consultation and the Planning Act 2008

We expect the project to be designated as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, which would fall under the remit of the Planning Inspectorate. We have therefore been following the requirements for pre-application consultation as set out in the Planning Act 2008.

In our Statement of community consultation, we recognised that we might need to amend our project in the light of comments received during phase two consultation. We made a commitment to consider whether any changes we proposed would affect the nature of the comments received during this period of formal consultation and where appropriate to undertake targeted consultation.
Targeted consultation

As a result of the feedback we received during phase two consultation, we are considering changes to some of the proposals for certain sites. We are now consulting on these changes and are seeking people’s views. As with our first two phases of public consultation, we have made information about these changes available on our website, at relevant libraries and town halls, and at local exhibitions. The targeted consultation will last for 28 days.

In addition to changes at the sites mentioned we have made some modifications to the proposed tunnel alignment and site boundaries. We have written to those who are potentially affected notifying them of these changes and informing them of this consultation.

To help you understand our amended proposals we have developed the following material:

- A supplementary site information paper for the four sites. These papers focus on the changes that have been made to the information we presented at phase two consultation.
- An updated Book of plans associated with these four sites.
- A series of maps showing the proposed changes in site and tunnel limits to the information presented at phase two consultation.
- Addendums to the relevant Preliminary environmental information report chapters.

Next steps

Any further comments we receive as a result of this targeted consultation will be taken into account as we prepare our Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

We will publish our draft application outlining the route and sites we intend to include in our DCO application in summer 2012. At that time we will publicise our proposals for at least six weeks.

We expect to submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate in early 2013.

Construction of the project is expected to begin in 2016 and take six to seven years to complete.

For further information see our website: www.thamestunnelconsultation.co.uk or call us on 0800 0721 086. 

Targeted consultation (June 2012)