

A358 Upgrade Update – 25/03/2021

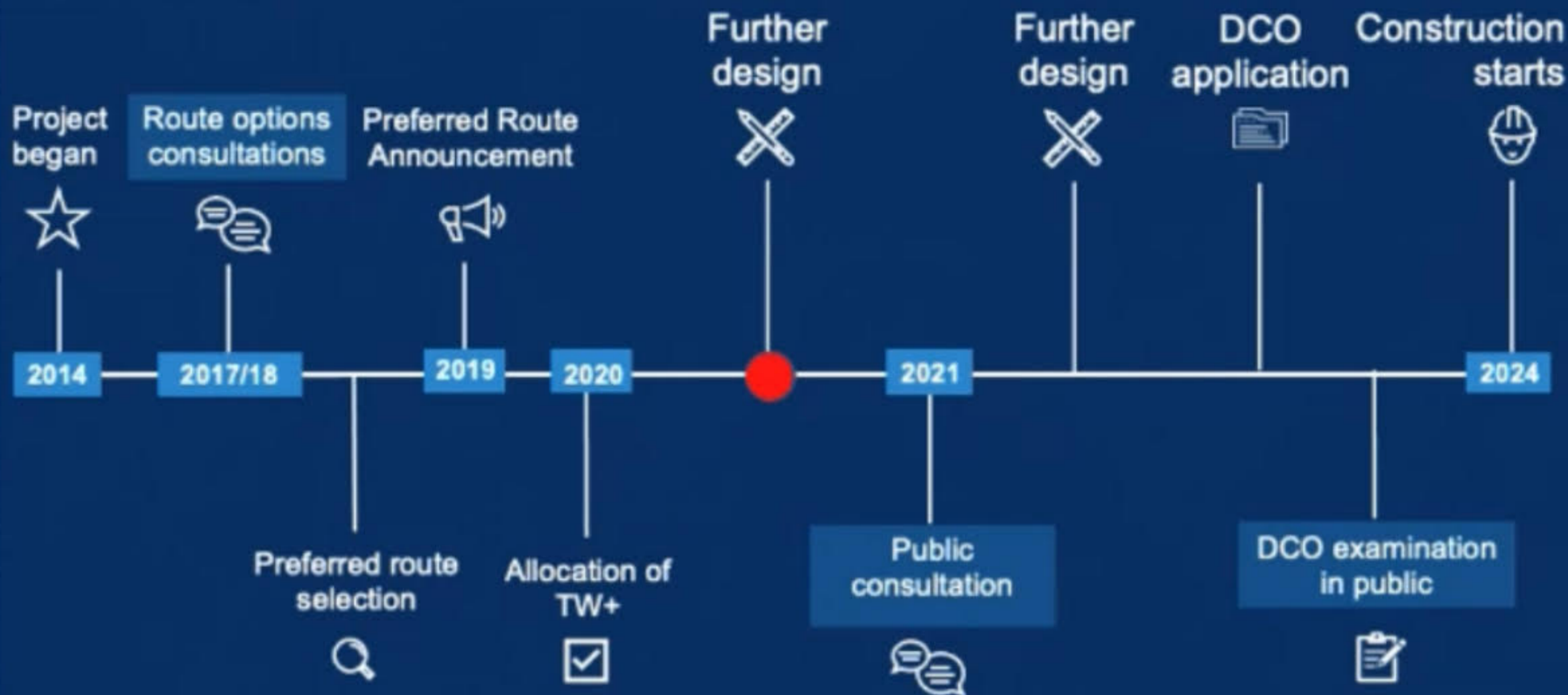
This is a brief report on a community forum held on 25/03/2021 to provide an introduction and update on the A358 Upgrade scheme between Taunton and Southfields. The forum was led by Highways England (HE). This report focuses on the Taunton end of the scheme.

A358 Upgrade Update – Timeline of community forums

What you told us

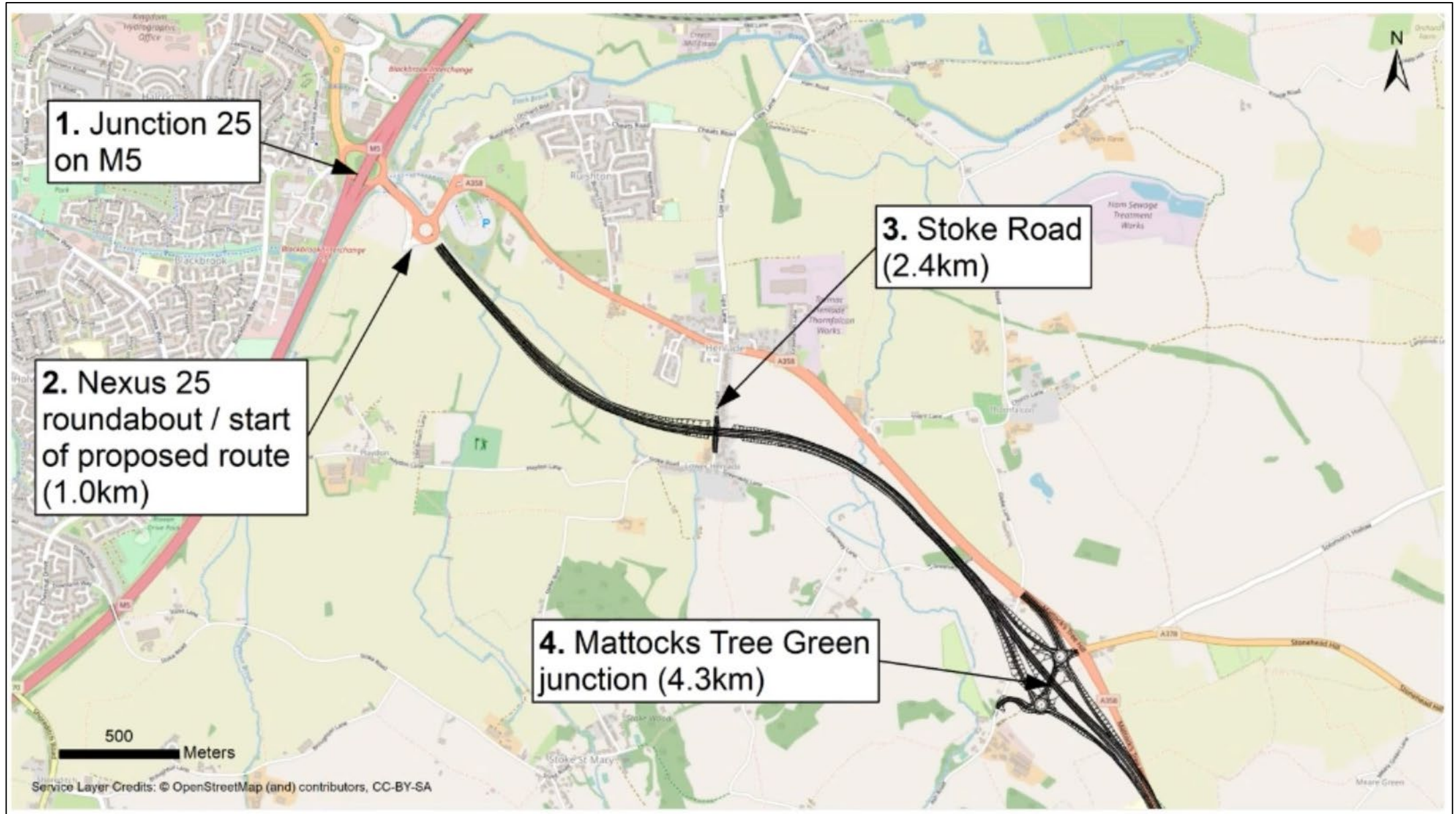
We've designed our upcoming community forums to focus on topics that you have raised previously, both through the survey and during the last forum meeting. Please do let us know if there are any other issues that you would like covered.

Suggested sessions	When	Potential areas of discussion
Community forum 1 – Introduction and scheme progress	Today	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intro to project team• How we've used your feedback• Update on process and project timeline
Community forum 2 – Local access and connectivity	Early May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentations on junctions and accesses• Feedback on local routes, accesses, rights of ways and public transport• Walking, cycling and horse riding, including disabled user provisions
Community forum 3 – Scheme design update	Late May/early June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design development based on feedback• Environmental mitigations• Update on business case
Community forum 4 – Public consultation process	Late June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Info ahead of public consultation



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A358 Upgrade Update –Preferred Route



A358 Upgrade Update – Key Points

- 1) Even though final design tweaking is ongoing, it was confirmed that the proposal of a new M5 Junction (J25a) has been dropped and will not feature in the final route.
- 2) Concerns were raised about the combined capacity of the existing J25 / Nexus Roundabouts. This issue is currently being reviewed.
- 3) A question was asked as to whether traffic flow and use assessments would be reviewed following COVID and change to the populations commuting (i.e., working from home/flexible working). Question taken away by HE.
- 4) Parishes along the route asked why the strategy of the A358 seemed to be to truncate existing connections with the route which is at odds with the strategy for A303 schemes where local access to this route is maintained via small on and off slip-roads. HE requested more detail on this point.
- 5) Questions were asked on how HE would mitigate impact of traffic trying to join the A358 via local villages. HE took this point away.