

# A350 Melksham Bypass Public Consultation



November 2020

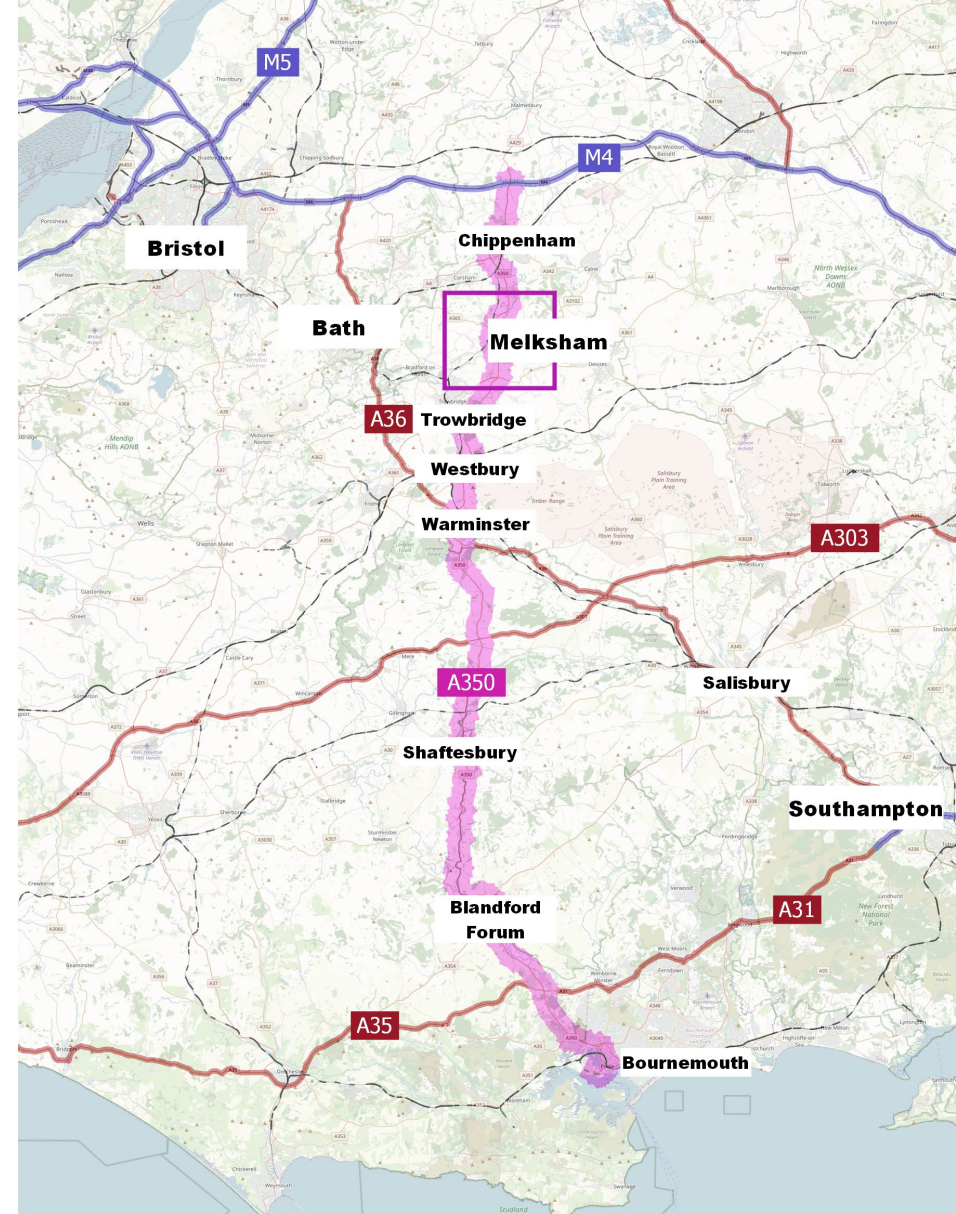
**Wiltshire Council**



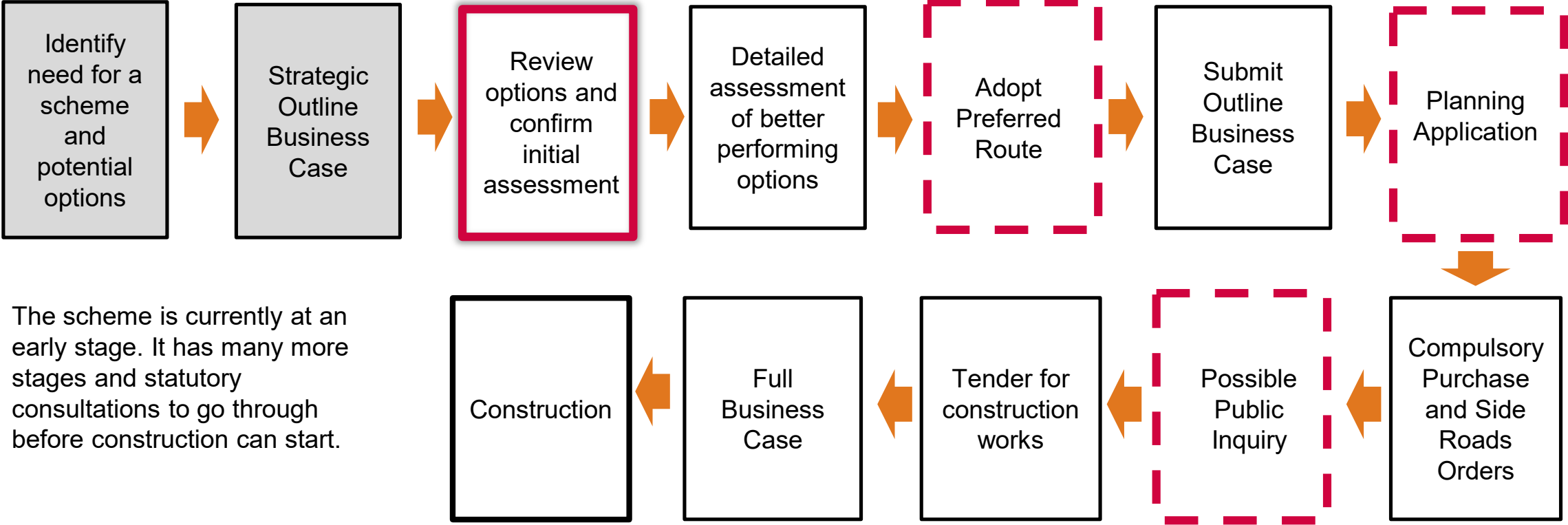
# Background

- The importance of the A350 to the local economy has long been recognised by Wiltshire Council
- Primary north-south route between M4 & Dorset Coast
- One of Busiest Routes in Wiltshire connecting principle settlements
- Sections of the A350 are subject to high traffic volumes, congestion and delays
- Funding from DfT to prepare Outline Business Case (OBC)

The A350 between the M4 and south coast





# Scheme preparation process



The scheme is currently at an early stage. It has many more stages and statutory consultations to go through before construction can start.

 Completed

 Current stage of consultation

 Other prospective key stakeholder involvement

# About this consultation

The scheme is at a very early stage of its development.

The aims of this non-statutory consultation are to:

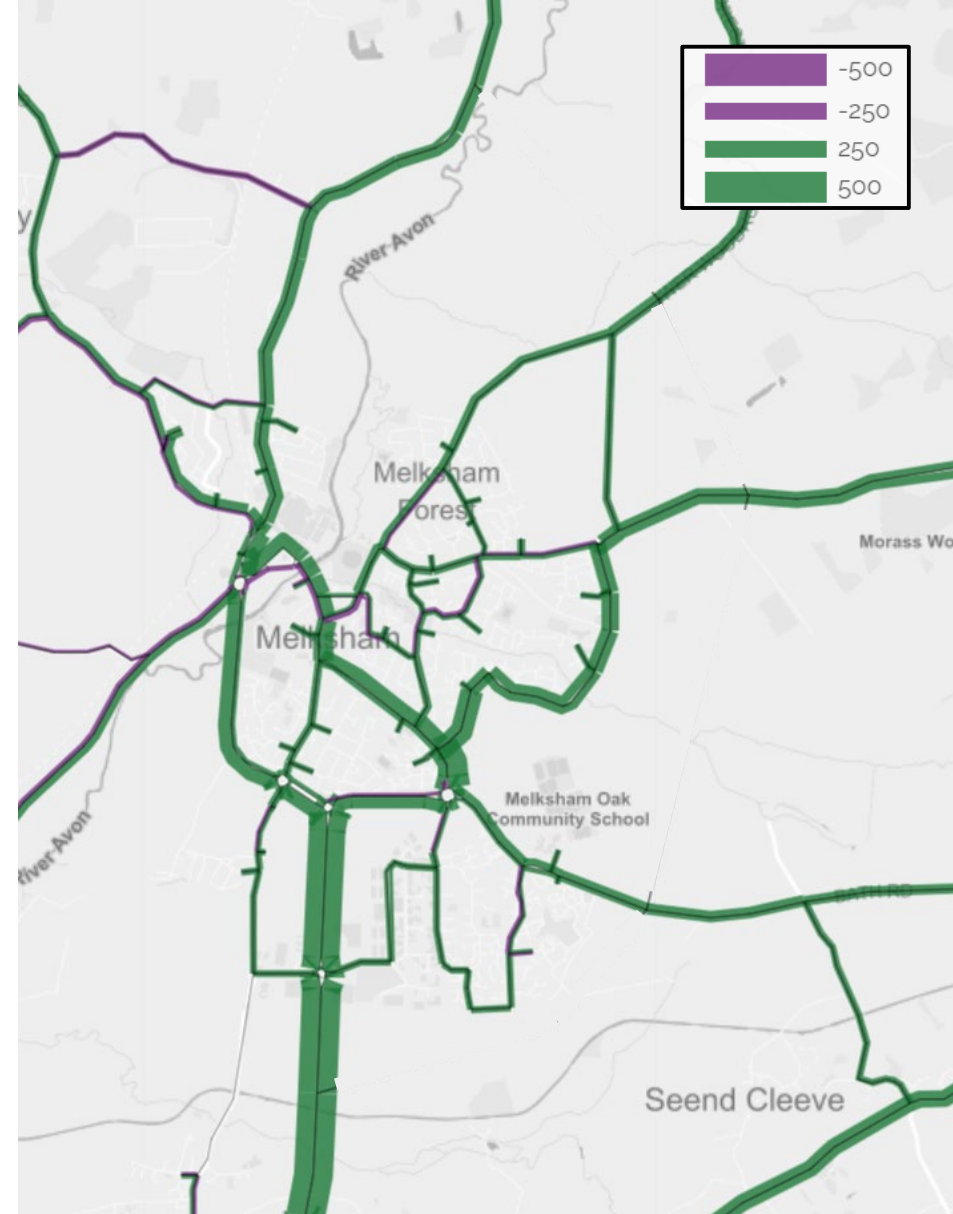
- Engage with stakeholders & potentially affected land owners
- Encourage involvement
- Build strong open relationships
- Raise awareness
- Inform about the option assessment process
- Understand concerns, issues and suggestions
- Receive feedback on the options to allow us to develop the scheme further
- Prepare for the statutory consultation phases



# Existing A350 - issues

- Slow moving traffic / variable traffic conditions
- North – south through traffic delays
- Local traffic routing
- Road safety
- Severance
- Noise & air quality
- Future traffic growth

Forecast change in traffic flows,  
2018 to 2036 (AM)





# Full range of options

## Non road-based options (Options 1 to 6)

### Demand management and traffic management measures

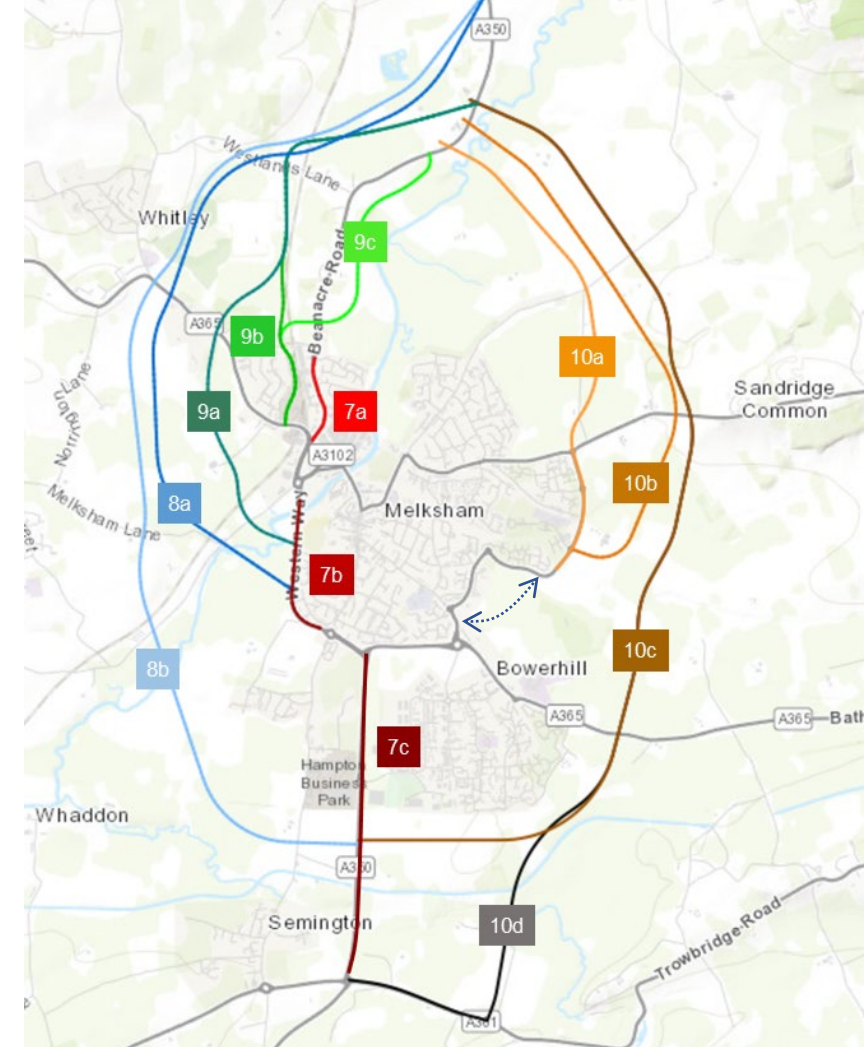
1. Workplace parking levy
2. Road user pricing
3. Heavy good vehicle restrictions

### Public transport and active modes

4. Rail service / infrastructure
5. Bus service / infrastructure
6. Improved walking and cycling routes

## Road-based options (Options 7 to 10)

- Improvement / upgrade to the existing A350 route
- Shorter / intermediate bypass options (east and west of the town)
- Longer (full) bypass options (east and west of the town)



Note - Indicative of potential route corridors only – this does not denote specific road alignment at this stage

# Please give us your views by 30 November

A wide range of potential options have been identified, which would all have different impacts and benefits. Information on the options will be available from 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at:

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-a350-melksham-bypass>

Website will include:

- Information pack covering areas such as:
  - A350 route & need for the scheme
  - Objectives & assessment criteria
  - Key physical constraints & full range of options
  - Route information
  - Emerging findings
  - Potential for complementary walk & cycling improvements
- Online questionnaire
- Series FAQs



# Please give us your views by 30 November

This consultation provides the opportunity to gather additional information on the scheme and its potential effects and help identify mitigation measures where required.

The views of organisations with specialist knowledge of the area will be particularly important in helping to refine the proposals.

It should be noted that the consultation is not a public 'vote' for the most popular route or option. A wide range of factors have to be taken into account in determining a preferred option.

There will be other formal consultation stages in the future, including at the planning application and in connection with the statutory orders, but it is considered that early consultation is a vital stage in developing major projects.

Your views will help us develop the scheme, and will be taken into account.





# How to give your views



You can give your views by visiting the Wiltshire Council website at:

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-a350-melksham-bypass>



Or by emailing:

[MajorHighwayProjects@Wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:MajorHighwayProjects@Wiltshire.gov.uk)



Or writing to:

Major Highway Projects,

Wiltshire Council,

Trowbridge,

Wiltshire

BA14 8JN

# What happens next?

- Ongoing technical investigation and review works
  - Ecology / environment walk over surveys
- Consultation to be launched at Melksham Area Board Meeting (4<sup>th</sup> Nov 7pm)
  - Runs to the end November 2020
  - All suggestions and comments will be welcomed and will be considered
  - Responses will feed into option consideration process
- Sifting of options to progress from long list to short list
- Further consultation mid 2021
- Adoption of preferred route & submission of Outline Business Case
  - Say October 2021



# Indicative timeline

The outcome of this consultation and the options appraisal is expected to be reported to a meeting of Wiltshire Council's Cabinet next year in order to consider the adoption of a Preferred Option for the scheme, and the submission of an Outline Business Case (OBC) to the Department of Transport (DfT) for funding.

On the basis that the Outline Business Case is approved and that there is funding available for further development, the scheme would go through further detailed design and environmental assessment.

The scheme would require a planning application and all the related statutory processes would apply, including consultation and a full Environmental Impact Assessment.

A Full Business Case would then be submitted to central government for the final approval for funding. This typically follows planning consent.

It is currently anticipated that construction would commence in 2024, with scheme opening in 2027.

**Oct '21**

OBC submission to DfT  
(approval to proceed)

**Mar '22**

Further design and  
environmental assessment

**Winter'22**

Planning application

**Spring '23**

Full Business Case (approval  
for funding)

**Winter'23**

DfT decision point

**2024**

Construction

**2027**

Scheme opening