

Comments on the proposed link road in the Warrington South Garden City Suburb plans

The proposed plan includes a new link road between Stretton Road and the A49 /M56 J10 and the purpose of this review is to consider the termination at its junction with the A49.

The proposed route terminates at a point on the A49 opposite the junction with Fir Tree Close and the new link road will bypass the A49/Red Lion traffic light junction which has been a well know trouble spot. Whilst the proposed route will bypass this junction, its proposed junction to Tarporley Road and its effect on the M56 J10 will create other serious traffic issues.

Currently, at peak times and when there are incidents on either the M6 in general around Warrington/Thelwall bridge or the area around the M56, the traffic at the Red Lion junction causes major traffic congestion. Even with current traffic density, vehicles already back up from not only from the Red Lion to the Motorway junction but also along London Road, Stretton Road and Hatton Lane.

Although the proposed link road will assist in alleviating issues at this traffic light junction, if the link road joins the A49 at the proposed position opposite the junction with Fir Tree Close this new junction will also require a traffic light junction and this will cause serious traffic problems particularly on the M56 J10.

The location of the new junction is much closer the M56 J10 and even based on current levels the increase in traffic will create an inevitable tail back not only on the east going slip road off the M56 but also create log jams around the roundabout itself which already occurs now before any increase in traffic.

The alternative is to take the route to join the existing road access off J10 which was originally designed as the Northwich Road junction to the roundabout but which has since been closed off and now only serves the Stretton Fox pub.

It is acknowledged that the current design of the junction would need to be addressed and two options are possible:-

1. to make the whole junction a traffic light junction, either part time or full time, and it is noted that the east bound slip road already is by controlled by traffic lights.

or

2. to create a new slip road to direct traffic from the new link road directly to the east bound slip road to the M56 similar to the arrangement at the M6 J20

Further advantages of such a route would enable service vehicles to access directly from the link road to the pub removing traffic from the current Spark Hall Close and also provide a better access to the Stretton Fox pub.

The proposed new route termination at the M56 J10 would not only reduce congestion at the Red Lion traffic lights but reduce the level of objection from residents.

A draft layout is attached showing not only the route of the new road but also proposals for the area around Spark Hall Close.

Warrington BC Highways dept and Highways England are requested to carry out a specific analysis of this proposal.

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