

## Link Corridors and Trunk Roads

### A3 Portadown to Richhill dual carriageway

#### Need for Improvement

The A3 Strategic Link Corridor extends from the M1 and M12 Motorway system at Craigavon in the east, through Portadown and the City of Armagh and westwards to the border near Monaghan.



The A3 between Portadown and Richhill is characterised by a sweeping alignment with frequent junctions and accesses, which include direct accesses to numerous retail and commercial premises.

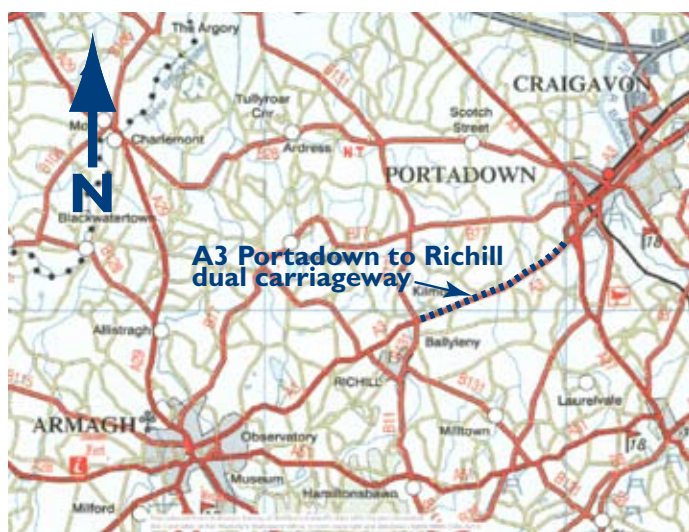




These characteristics, together with significant volumes of traffic, which often includes slow moving vehicles, results in very few overtaking opportunities, particularly at times of peak traffic flow. Collision remedial schemes have been implemented at several locations to improve safety.

## The Proposal

The proposal is to upgrade the busiest stretch of this interurban route, from the western outskirts of Portadown to Richhill, by providing approximately 6.5 km of dual carriageway.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey for Northern Ireland's data with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, Crown copyright and database rights NIMA ES&LA214

## Benefits

This scheme will improve the reliability of journey times on this Strategic Link Corridor and will provide safety benefits.

## Progress

Work to develop this proposal is about to commence and will be progressed in three stages.

Stage One involves the identification and assessment of a range of preliminary options leading to the selection of a number of 'approved options' for more detailed assessment.

This more detailed assessment of the 'approved options', undertaken at Stage Two, will lead to the selection of a 'preferred route'.

The 'preferred route' will be further developed at Stage Three to provide a 'specimen design' which will be the subject of comprehensive environmental, economic and engineering assessments. The formal Statutory Procedures will then follow with the publication of an Environmental Statement, together with a Notice of Intention to Make a Direction Order and a Notice of Intention to Make a Vesting Order.

The A3 Portadown to Richhill proposal is included in Roads Service's 10-Year Forward Planning Schedule which contains schemes that could be started within the next 10 years subject to satisfactory economic and other appraisals, availability of funding and satisfactory progression through the Statutory Procedures.