ROADS Service

Strategic Road Improvements

Belfast Metropolitan Transport Corridor
A2 Sydenham Bypass Improvement Scheme

Need for Scheme

The A2 Sydenham Bypass is one of the most heavily used carriageways in the Belfast Metropolitan Area and forms a vital section of the strategic highway network, linking Bangor and Belfast. The road also provides access to the key gateways of George Best Belfast City Airport and Belfast Port, and to several large residential areas. Currently this section of the road is a dual carriageway carrying over 50,000 vehicles per day. The road is affected by congestion during peak traffic periods.

The Proposed Scheme

The proposed scheme will widen a 2.5km stretch of the existing A2 Sydenham Bypass from a dual 2-lane carriageway to a dual 3-lane carriageway. The widening is heavily constrained by the close proximity of the railway line, Victoria Park and George Best Belfast City Airport. As a result of these constraints the design aims to minimise the impact of the scheme on the nearby Victoria Park and to work within the existing site constraints. Some of the key aspects of the scheme include the replacement of Sydenham Footbridge and provision of a shared footway and cycle way, along with the eventual removal of Dee Street junction upon the completion of a new Connswater junction.

Information correct at time of printing - October 2008

The progression of major road improvement schemes through to construction is subject to detailed economic appraisal, clearance of the relevant statutory procedures and the availability of funding at that time.

Benefits

The construction of the A2 Sydenham Bypass Improvement Scheme will remove the bottleneck which currently exists on the A2 Sydenham Bypass. This will result in improvements in road safety, a reduction in traffic congestion, more reliable journey times and improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

Progress

A Public Consultation Event took place in May 2008 to coincide with the completion of the Stage One Scheme Assessment. The DRD Investment Delivery Plan for Roads estimates that the scheme will be delivered within the 2014 - 2018 period.