

Julia Lopez MP
House of Commons
Westminster
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Dear Julia Lopez MP

I am writing to provide you with an update on the Lower Thames Crossing Supplementary Consultation given the current situation with Coronavirus and the measures the Government has put in place.

The Supplementary Consultation on the changes we have made to the project's design since our 2018 Statutory Consultation, has been underway for since 29 January. We are 7 weeks through the 8-week consultation period, which is significantly longer than the 28-day minimum required for statutory consultations. We have completed more than 80% of our 22 events, with almost 4,000 people visiting 7 of the 8 Public Information Events (PIE), and 10 of the 13 Mobile Information Centres (MIC).

The current situation with Coronavirus is unprecedented and we have been giving careful consideration to how we support the Government's efforts to curb the spread of the virus, protecting the public and our staff, while also continuing our vital work to maintain, operate and improve England's strategic road network.

Following the Government's updated guidance issued on Monday we took the decision to cancel our last PIE and our remaining 3 MICs. While we have carried out the majority of our events, we recognise that some people may have not yet had the opportunity to speak to the team at an event. We also understand that the attentions of people and organisations will have been focused elsewhere over the past few days. We are therefore taking two measures to respond to those issues.

Firstly, we have taken the decision to extend the consultation until 23.59 on Thursday 2 April. This is to give people additional time to complete their consultation response and to enable organisations to complete their governance processes, which may have been disrupted. Until that time people can continue to share their views online (www.lowerthamescrossing.co.uk/consultation-2020) by submitting a paper response form to Freepost LTC CONSULTATION or by emailing lrc.consultation@traverse.ltd

Secondly, we will be opening a public consultation telephone service for members of the public who had planned to go to the remaining events the opportunity to speak to a member of the

project team about the changes we are consulting on. These will take place between 2pm and 8pm on Monday 23 March and Wednesday 25 March, on 020 3787 4300. My team will be in touch with Local Authority officers about this, including about how they can support our planned campaign in getting details out to local communities.


All of our consultation materials are available on our consultation website (www.lowerthamescrossing.co.uk/consultation-2020). Document deposit locations, which hold hard copies of all the materials, currently remain open as do the information points which hold the Guide to Consultation, Consultation Response Form and Freepost envelope. We will also post out the Guide, Response Form and Freepost envelope on request by emailing us at info@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk or calling on 0300 123 5000.

While unrelated to Coronavirus, we are also anticipating holding a further round of consultation on some remaining design refinements ahead of submitting our DCO application. This would provide communities and stakeholders with a further opportunity to consider our proposals and share their views. We will be in contact about this in due course.

This is an unprecedented and unsettling time and while I appreciate there will be calls for a longer extension or postponement, we simply do not know how long the current state of affairs will continue. We are seeking to strike a balance between the inevitable disruption we are all facing and the important work that must continue. This means we are having to work in different ways and use alternative approaches. The development of the Lower Thames Crossing and other infrastructure projects will play an important role as the country seeks to recover from the wide range of impacts we face. It is critical that we maintain the progress of our projects and keep the momentum of delivery.

My team will continue to work with you as we develop our proposals. We remain fully committed to seeking your vital input to our design and we will find practical and creative ways of doing so.

Yours sincerely,



Alan Seywright
Project Director