

# Stroud District Local Plan Examination Pause

Short Report May 2024

## Overview

The Inspectors wrote to Stroud District Council on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 confirming they would allow a pause in the Examination between 5<sup>th</sup> February and 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024. During this period the Inspectors require Stroud District Council to undertake and provide all the tasks set out in their letter (ID-015) sections I-VI. Stroud District Council have agreed to these actions and timescales, together with Gloucestershire County Council, South Gloucestershire Council, National Highways and the site promoters where relevant.

The Inspectors have now written to Stroud District Council (ID-018) with the following request:

*A period of time has elapsed since the Inspectors agreed to the pause of the Examination of the Stroud Local Plan. The Inspectors would like the Council to provide a short report on the progress being made on the actions currently being undertaken. The first update should be provided by the end of this month (31 May 2024) and then submitted on a monthly basis thereafter. These should also be uploaded to the Examination webpage.*

The length and content of the monthly reports will vary depending on the progress with the individual projects and tasks set out in ID-017 I-IV. The following short report is the first report (May) and has been written jointly with Stroud District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, National Highways, South Gloucestershire Council and relevant highway consultants.

## M5 Junction 12 Project

**The following update is provided by Gloucestershire County Council and Stroud District Council, who have jointly commissioned WSP:**

Gloucestershire County Council and Stroud District Council commissioned WSP to undertake the technical feasibility work for M5 Junction 12 at the end of April 2024. Since then, WSP has delivered the Stage 1 Baseline Report to programme. Following the



Baseline Report, an initial optioneering workshop was held with Gloucestershire County Council, Stroud District Council and National Highways where a range of options for the junction were discussed. All proposed options from the workshop are being reviewed by the design team to identify the solutions that will form the three options for the junction, informing the feasibility study. WSP is currently awaiting client sign off on the assessment outcomes before progressing with the option design for the three solutions. The strategic models have been set up, reviewed and are ready to progress (code in) when the three options are agreed. The option appraisal framework has been drafted, along with the approach to undertaking the assessment (GG104). Key risks have been identified in risk workshop and recorded in the live project risk register which will be updated monthly. The work is currently on track with the agreed deadlines.

**The following update is provided by National Highways, who are working collaboratively with Gloucestershire County Council and Stroud District Council:**

National Highways has been working collaboratively with Stroud District Council, Gloucestershire County Council and its consultants to progress the development of options for improvement of M5 J12 to support the draft Stroud Local Plan. We have been invited to and will attend as a contributor all of the M5 J12 Working Group meetings.

National Highways have made available our NH M5 J12 and J14 microsimulation models to each Working Group under licence and without charge.

National Highways have attended the recent risk and optioneering workshops for M5 J12. We are also working to identify the timing of when an improvement at M5 J12 is required; this will be shared with the Working Group when it has been completed.

**M5 Junction 12 Project Status**

Gloucestershire County Council, Stroud District Council and National Highways are working collaboratively to progress the works. WSP is on programme to deliver the required works for a September consultation with submission to the Inspectors 5th December 2024

## M5 Junction 14 Project

**The following update is Provided by Stroud District Council:**

The design for the revised arrangement of M5 Junction 14 is progressing well. The previous design for the grade-separated junction prepared by Jacobs has been reviewed and evolution of the design to meet design standards is well advanced.



Alternative arrangements have also been explored in terms of concept design and high-level modelling. This has been discussed with the Junction 14 Transport Working Subgroup and shared with National Highways and Gloucestershire County Council. We anticipate feedback shortly which will enable a decision to be made as to whether this alternative should be developed any further.

Progress towards the main design is continuing towards a draft 2D and 3D design. Progress to date has been shared with the Transport Working Group. Environmental constraints mapping and land ownership considerations are being incorporated in design development.

The Order of Cost Estimate and impact apportionment workstreams are dependent on a finalised scheme to progress significantly, and this dependency was accounted for in the Join Action Plan programme. Background tasks to prepare and benchmark methodologies are progressing.

**The following update is provided by National Highways, who are working with collaboratively with Stroud District Council and South Gloucestershire Council:**

National Highways has been working collaboratively with Stroud District Council, Gloucestershire County Council and its consultants to progress the development of options for improvement of M5 J14 to support the draft Stroud Local Plan. We have been invited to and will attend as a contributor all of the M5 J14 Working Group meetings.

At M5 J14 we have completed a Local Plan 2040 model test of a grade separated roundabout improvement option. A Technical Note is currently being prepared and will be shared with the M5 J14 Working Group in due course.

National Highways have made available our NH M5 J14 microsimulation models to each Working Group under licence and without charge.

At M5 J14 National Highways have completed a Local Plan 2040 model test of a grade separated roundabout improvement option. A Technical Note is currently being prepared and will be shared with the M5 J14 Working Group in due course.

**M5 Junction 14 Project Status**

Stroud District Council, National Highways and South Gloucestershire Council are working collaboratively to progress the works. AECOM is on programme to deliver the required works for a September consultation with submission to the Inspectors 5th December 2024.

