

A90 Laurencekirk Junction Improvement Scheme

Welcome

Today's event gives you the opportunity to meet the design team, taking forward the detailed assessment and development of the A90 Laurencekirk Junction Improvement Scheme.

Transport Scotland officials and Amey representatives will be happy to assist you with any queries you may have.



A90 South Junction looking Southbound



A90/A937 North Junction looking East

A90 Laurencekirk Junction Improvement Scheme

Why are we here?



A90 North Junction looking Southbound



A90/B9120 Centre Junction looking East

In January 2016, the Scottish Government announced £24 million funding for the design and construction of a new grade-separated junction at Laurencekirk as part of a package of additional investment alongside the Aberdeen City Region Deal.

In September 2016, following a competitive tendering process, Transport Scotland appointed Amey to take forward the option assessment and development work.

Since being appointed, Amey have mobilised their design and assessment teams, commenced preliminary designs and topographical survey work and initiated consultation with statutory bodies.

This 'Meet the Team' event is part of Transport Scotland's community engagement, allowing the public to meet representatives of Transport Scotland and their design consultant, Amey, and also to find out more about the essential design and assessment process to be followed during the development of the scheme.

Keeping local communities, landowners, stakeholders and members of the public informed is an essential and integral part of the design process. As the scheme progresses we will continue to provide you with updates and hold public events to allow you to have your say and give us your feedback.

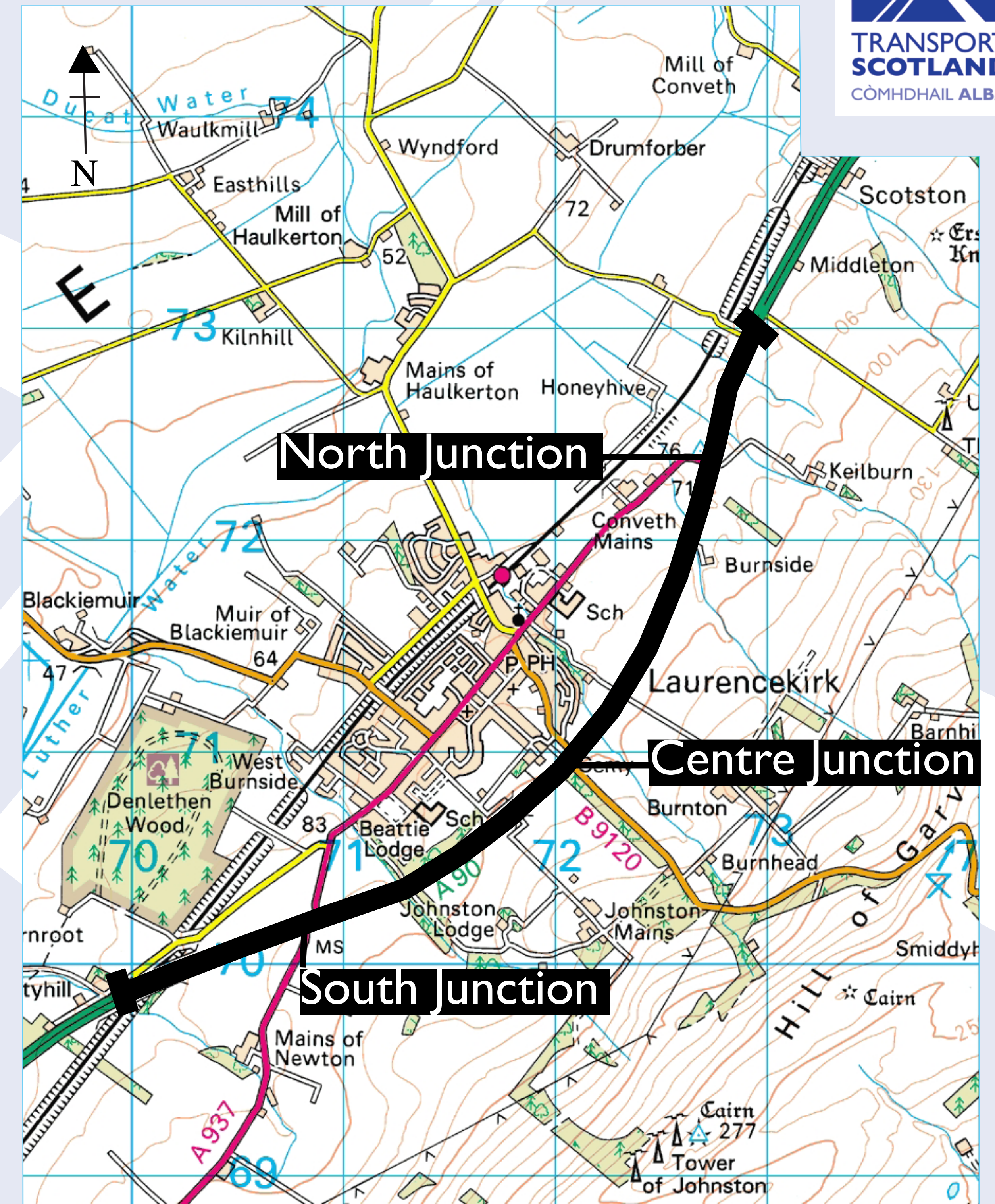
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Background

Transport Scotland is progressing the project that will see improvements made to the access between the A90 trunk road and Laurencekirk. Currently access is provided via three at-grade junctions: (1) the A937 junction south of Laurencekirk, (2) the B9120 junction east of the town and (3) the A937 to the north.

We are continuing the design and assessment process that began with the June 2015 Access to Laurencekirk Study. The Study identified a wide range of the outline options. The exercise was undertaken in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Stage 1; the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) and it was carried out in consultation with the public, local community groups and the Client Steering Group including Nestrans, Transport Scotland, Aberdeenshire Council and Tactran.

The next stage of work now underway is the more detailed DMRB Stage 2 assessment. This exercise will involve a detailed assessment of the options that were identified in the Access to Laurencekirk Study. The conclusion of this will be to identify the preferred junction improvement option. This phase of the design work is expected to be completed in 2018.

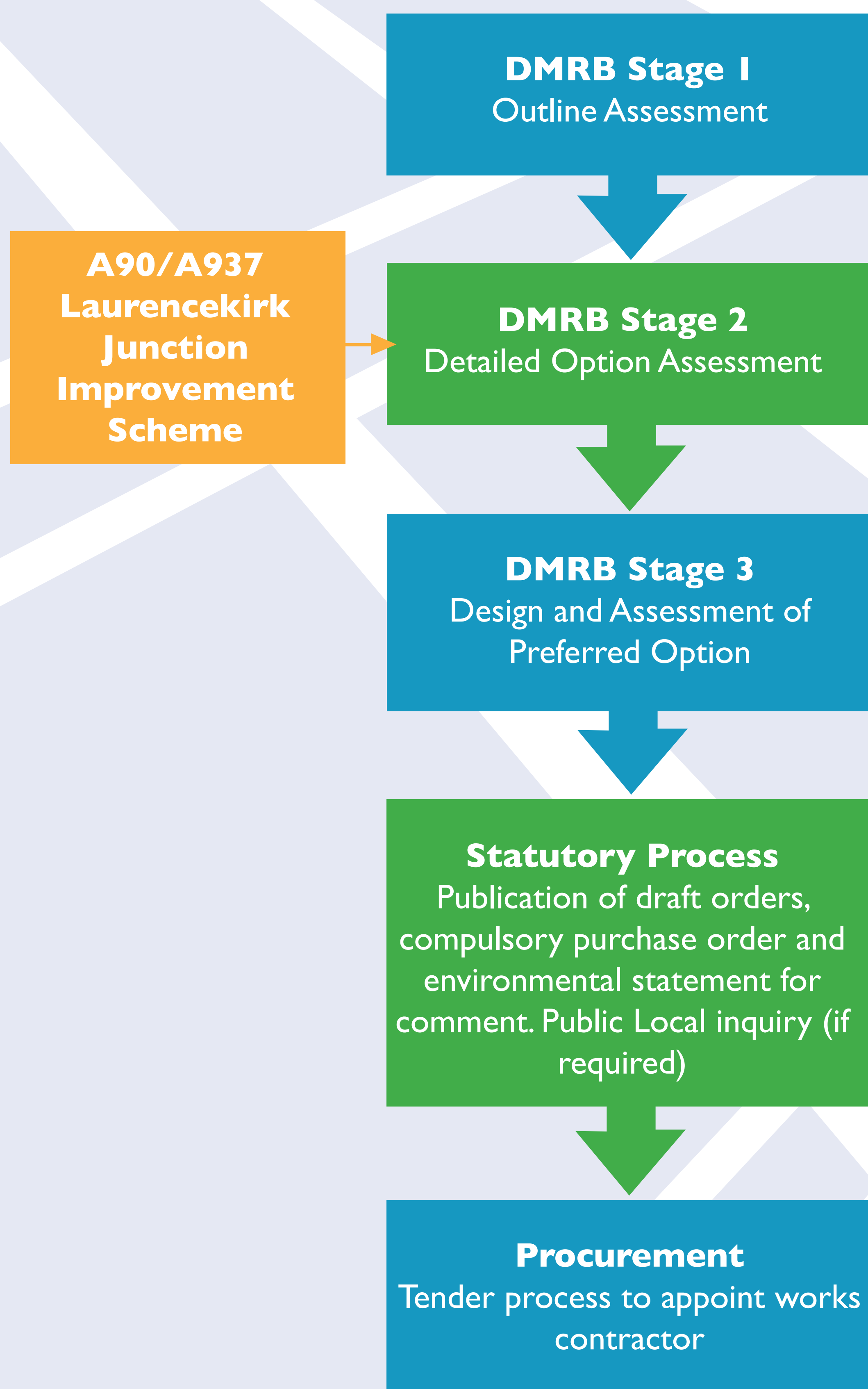


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Scheme Assessment Process



Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Process



Transport Scotland carries out a rigorous and well-defined assessment process to identify the preferred route and land requirements for a trunk road improvement project.

The three-stage assessment process, based on the DMRB standard of good practice covers environmental, engineering, traffic and economic considerations. Throughout this process, we will consult with a large number of stakeholders and interested parties.

DMRB Stage I - Access to Laurencekirk Study

The first part of this process is the DMRB Stage I. This preliminary stage of work was completed as part of the earlier 2015 Access to Laurencekirk Study, which identified a range of broadly defined junction improvement options.

These outline improvement options were high level concepts, such as grade separation at the south junction on its own or in combination with other improvement options at the other two junctions.

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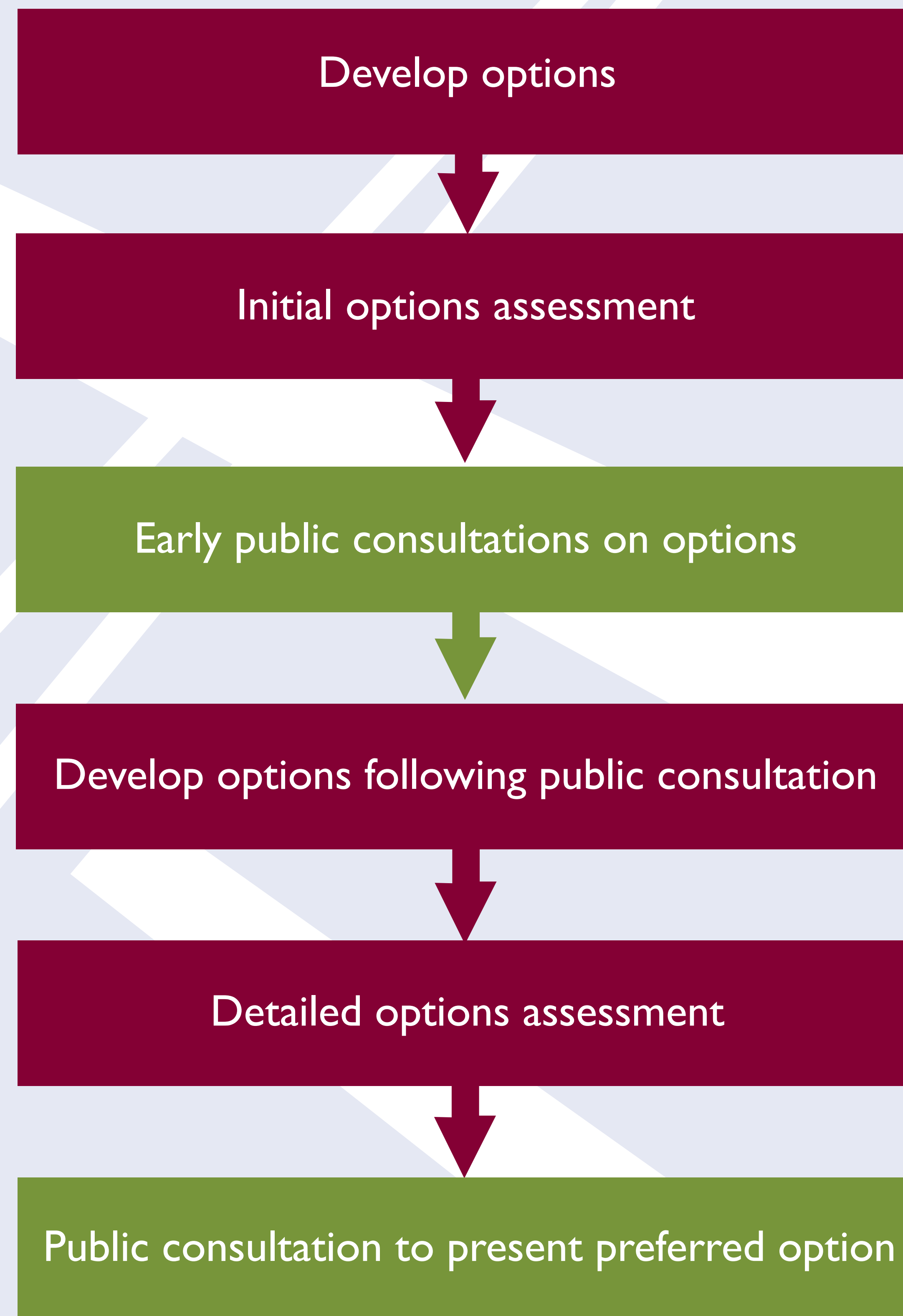
Developing the scheme design



DMRB Stage 2 Assessment

During this current stage of development we will undertake an engineering, traffic, economic and environmental assessment of the potential impacts of each option. The options being considered will then be presented to the public for their feedback to inform the selection of a preferred option.

To inform the design development and environmental assessment, Amey will gather information over the coming months to determine the current state of the natural environment in the area. This will include walkover surveys which will help increase the team's understanding of existing conditions.



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Developing the scheme design

DMRB Stage 3 Assessment

Following selection of the preferred option, the design will be further developed and assessed with an Environmental Impact Assessment undertaken and the land required for the scheme identified. During this stage, the preferred option will also be developed to take account of the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and other Non-Motorised Users (NMUs).

To inform the design development and environmental assessment of the scheme, Amey will also carry out further investigations in the coming years. Ground investigations will be undertaken to determine both soil and the underlying rock conditions necessary to inform the earthworks and bridge foundation design.

This stage of the assessment process will culminate in publication of the draft Statutory Orders for formal consultation. It is anticipated that the Stage 3 Assessment will take 12 - 18 months to complete with draft Orders expected to be published in 2019 for formal comment. Progress thereafter will depend on the public reaction to the published draft Orders and whether there is a need for a Public Local Inquiry.

Initial development of the preferred option

Traffic, environmental and geotechnical surveys

Consultation with relevant authorities, landowners and affected parties

Further development of the preferred option including road safety audit and cycling and accessibility design

Engineering, environmental, traffic and economic assessment, and further consultations

Preparation of the draft Statutory Orders

Publication of draft Orders for formal comment including Public Exhibition



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Meet the Team



Stakeholder and Community Engagement

Transport Scotland will ensure that stakeholder and community engagement is:

- inclusive, open and transparent
- undertaken at key stages to allow for feedback to inform the design and assessment process
- is facilitated through a range of methods for example workshops, events, exhibitions and website

Transport Scotland's Design Manager, Sandy Jamieson and the Project Manager for the scheme, Andy Anderson will be responsible for Transport Scotland's commitment to stakeholder and community engagement and ensuring that the principles for community engagement are followed.

Transport Scotland is working in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council, Angus Council and NESTRANS to keep the local community informed and engaged throughout the process of development of the scheme.

Managing and coordinating public engagement and ongoing dialogue will be the responsibility of Amey's Principal Roads and Infrastructure Engineer, Mark Wells.

Mark is committed to ensuring that Transport Scotland's principles for community engagement are followed throughout the lifetime of the scheme.

Mark has over 20 years' experience of liaising with local communities and stakeholders. He and his team will undertake consultation with landowners and tenants throughout the design process, including agreeing access arrangements for surveys. Mark will be supported by Amey's Task Order Manager, Gordon MacDonald.

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What happens next?

The Amey team is assessing the existing available information and identifying areas where more information needs to be collected. This information will be key to the detailed development of the junction improvement options being progressed over the coming months. Amey are updating the list of stakeholders who they will continue to consult with during this detailed assessment process.



Transport Scotland will give members of the public the opportunity to comment on options at further exhibitions to ensure that all stakeholders and interested parties have the opportunity to give their feedback on the options under consideration.

All of the information presented at today's 'Meet the Team' event is available on the A90 Laurencekirk Junction Improvement Scheme project website:

<http://www.transport.gov.scot/project/a90a937-laurencekirk-junction-improvement-scheme>



A90 North Junction looking Southbound



A90 South Junction looking Northbound