

A66 Westmorland and Furness Briefing



Westmorland and Furness Council Tourism Summit

A66 Northern Trans-Pennine
Project Update

Lee Hillyard

Project Director



A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Upgrade | Project Objectives

The strategic objective of the project is to investigate the potential to create a new improved strategic corridor linking the A1(M) with the M6 by upgrading the A66 corridor and making other improvements along its length.

- **Safety** – A consistent standard of dual carriageway with the same speed limit throughout, may reduce the number of accidents. Use of the 'old' A66 as part of the local road network will provide better, safer routes for cyclists and pedestrians.
- **Connectivity** – Improving connectivity for people living and working nearby and creating better facilities for cyclists and pedestrians. Reducing congestion and improving the reliability of people's journeys between the M6 at Penrith and the A1(M) Scotch Corner and nationwide. It also improves connectivity between the key employment areas of Cumbria, Tees Valley and Tyne and Wear.
- **Environmental** – Minimising noise levels for people living and working near the route and reducing the congestion currently occurring in the single carriageway sections. The project is also being designed to minimise any potential negative impacts on the natural environment and landscapes of the North Pennines and Lake District.
- **Economic** – Improving strategic regional and national connectivity, particularly for hauliers. Heavy goods vehicles account for a quarter of all traffic on the road and any delays to journeys can have an extremely negative effect on business and commerce, including lost working time and missed shipment slots.
- **Tourism** – Improving access to key tourist destinations such as the North Pennines and Lake District.
- **Community** – Re-connecting communities and providing better links between settlements along the route as well as improving access to services such as healthcare, employment areas and education.
- **Capacity** – Reducing delays and queues during busy periods and improving the performance of key junctions such as the A66/A6 and the M6 junction 40.
- **Increasing reliability** – An improved A66, with consistent speed limits, will lead to less accidents which, in turn, makes the road more reliable. Also, having a dual carriageway provides the option to close lanes where required due to accidents or break downs and still keep traffic moving.





50% more casualties than average for the strategic road network

Lancs Live
A66 closed in both directions after serious collision as police attend scene
The A66 has been closed in both directions in scene of a serious collision. North West Highw...

Cumbria Crack
A66 closed after lorry crash - cumbriacrack.com
The A66 is closed eastbound between Penrith and Temple Sowerby due to a crash involving two lorries, our colleagues at...

Lancs Live
A66 in Cumbria closed between Bowes and Brough after crash
A major road in Cumbria is partially closed this evening following a crash. Emergency services have been called to the A66 westbound and the...

Lancs Live
A66 to close from Scotch Corner to Penrith as Storm Eunice rolls in
The A66 will be closed from Scotch Corner to Penrith tonight (February 17) due to the threat of heavy rain and snow.

News & Star
A66 closed at Appleby after crash | News and Star
A spokesman for the police said: "We are currently dealing with a crash on the A66 Appleby Bypass, West. All traffic being diverted to the...

The Northern Echo
A66 closed to high-sided vehicles between County Durham
The A66 has been closed to high-sided vehicles due to high winds between Bowes and...

Cumbria Crack
Police warn of near misses in A66 roadworks area ...
Police are warning drivers after near misses and speeding in areas of roadworks on the A66 at Warcop. Highways England are carrying out...

Lancs Live
Man dies in crash that closed A66 near Cumbria overnight
A fatal crash has closed the A66 near Cumbria overnight. The crash took place at...

Cumbria Crack
A66 reopens after 10 hours closed following fatal crash - cumbriacrack.com
The A66 has reopened in Cumbria after a fatal crash this morning. Police were called at 5.19am to a crash involving two HGVs between Kirby Thore and...

20% of accidents resulting in road closures of over 5 hours





“To complete the dualling of the A66 from A1(M) J53 Scotch Corner and M6 J40 Penrith.”

Key
 Single carriageway
 Dual carriageway



A selection of our stakeholders

“The A66 is a vital arterial road, connecting Cumbria with the rest of the country – but in places, it’s a very dangerous road. I’m determined to support the dualing of the A66, because it will reduce accidents, prevent road closures and above all, it will surely mean lives are saved.”



Tim Farron
MP for Westminster & Lancaster



“It’s been so encouraging to be part of the A66’s vital upgrades which will reduce travel times, ease congestion, boost our local economy and, most importantly, make the route safer.”

“Safety, traffic accessibility are all top concerns along our stretch of the A66. It’s reassuring that our Government has fast-tracked the project and I look forward to consultation about proposed upgrades.”



Dr Neil Hudson
MP for Preston & The Fylde

A66 Northern Trans-Planaric project



“Dualing the A66 will deliver improved connections between Carlisle, Durham, North Yorkshire and the Tees Valley, significantly enhancing the reliability and resilience of long-distance goods and freight movements across the whole of the UK.”



Owen Wilson
Head of Major Projects



“The A66 plays a vital role in connecting the west and east of England and is integral to Durham’s visitor economy. These improvements will help to ensure the safety and efficiency of the route for all road users for generations to come.”



Duncan Peake
Executive Chair
West County Durham



“The A66 is fundamentally important to Cumbria’s visitor economy and planned improvements will make it safer and more efficient for visitors and residents alike.”



Jim Walker
Cumbria Council




“The A66 is a key route for the growing number of both business and leisure passengers using Teesside International thanks to our expanding domestic and international flights. As part of the Teesside Freeport, improving east-west connectivity is critical in marking out our location as a key logistics, business and manufacturing site.”

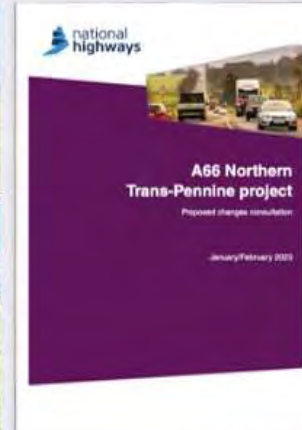


Phil Forster
Managing Director
Teesside International Airport




Things I want to highlight to you today

- § Current approach started 2016... Stages 1 - 5.
- § Examination is now complete and finished early.
- § We took on board feedback and amended our design. We have been examined on this.
 - SoS DCO Decision – Delayed until 07 March 2024.
 - We have commenced with Enabling Works.
 - We need a DCO Decision (Consent) & HM Treasury to release full construction funds.
 - Construction Start – Spring 2024.
 - There are challenges.
 - My readout to you all?



Find out more



nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/a66-northern-trans-pennine/



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A66 Northern Trans-Pennine project



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