

Support number **SU02**
Supporter's Name Ian James Parsley, Ultonia Communications
Date submitted 28 January 2015
NIMVO plot number N/A

TransportNI has considered the correspondence in the above communication and responds as follows:

1. On behalf of my company, I wish to state my strong support for the roads aspect of the York Street Flyover as currently planned, and strongly commend it for construction at the soonest possible time.

a) TransportNI notes your email of 28 January 2015 and welcomes your strong support of the Proposed Scheme.

Construction Programme

b) It is anticipated that the scheme would require a minimum period of just over 3 years (38 months) to construct, subject to the advance completion of service diversion works or advance placement of service diversion Orders with the relevant utility providers. Based on the current programme, TransportNI expects construction works to commence in Autumn 2017, subject to successful progression of the Statutory Orders procedures (including Public Inquiry), availability of funding, and detailed economic appraisal. On this basis, the scheme could be completed by late 2020.

2. We would add three further points, none of which should in any way be seen as a reason or excuse to delay the project.

RAIL: We would recommend the dualling of the Dargan Bridge crossing as part of the project. This is the obvious time to proceed with it.

Dargan Dualling:

a) TransportNI can confirm that works to dual the Dargan Bridge deck are not being incorporated into the Proposed Scheme. However, in order to future-proof the Dargan Bridge for such a scheme to dual the bridge deck, it is proposed that strengthening works to some 16 of its foundations are undertaken as part of the Proposed Scheme. Much of these strengthening works would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to undertake after completion of the Proposed Scheme without unacceptable disruption to road traffic. Dualling for the track itself would not form part of this road scheme contract and would be advanced by Translink under a separate commission.

CYCLE: We would recommend new signage and clarity around new routes for cyclists wishing to cross the Lagan Bridge at this point.

Cycling Provision:

b) TransportNI would note that, as the Lagan Bridge carries the M3 motorway, cyclists are not permitted to use the bridge to cross the river. The nearest facility to cross the River Lagan in the vicinity of the Proposed Scheme is the recently opened Lagan Weir footbridge. The provision of signage for cyclists within the extents of the Proposed Scheme would be considered as part of future detailed design.

SIDE ROADS: We are unclear if two way traffic is really required in the Donegall Quay/Albert Square area, and wonder if this should be one-way (likely clockwise).

Side Roads:

c) As outlined in our email response of 28 January 2015, since the Proposed Scheme does not extend to Donegall Quay, no proposals are included to change the existing traffic provision in this area. Any modification to traffic distribution in this area would be subject to a separate study through TransportNI's Traffic Section.

- 3. As one further additional point, we continue to be of the view that signage on the A12 Westlink itself is unnecessarily complex. We would recommend the implementation during the project of new signage, based on Southern African usage, which would clarify absolutely which junction is which. We attach an example of how the sign for the exit at the Divis St junction northbound may look.**

Traffic Sign Design

a) In the United Kingdom, only road traffic signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 (as amended) are permitted for use by TransportNI. The Regulations, along with the accompanying Traffic Signs Manual, ensure a consistent approach to road signs across the United Kingdom in terms of size, positioning and appearance.

- 4. In conclusion, we repeat our strong support for the project precisely as it stands.**

a) We would thank-you once again for your interest in this scheme.

DRD TransportNI
Eastern Division
02 October 2015