

HOW TRANSPORT NI DELIVERS MAJOR ROAD SCHEMES

Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Scheme Assessment Process

Before commencing the statutory procedures for a road scheme, Transport NI completes a three-stage **Scheme Assessment** process in accordance with the requirements of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), as illustrated in this diagram.

This Scheme Assessment process requires the completion of engineering, environmental, traffic and economic assessments in increasing levels of detail as the scheme develops. These assessments identify the advantages and disadvantages of the scheme for Transport NI and inform its decision on whether or not to progress to the next Scheme Assessment stage.

The **Stage 1 Scheme Assessment** was completed in March 2009. The **Preliminary Options Report** identified a number of options to be taken forward for a Stage 2 Scheme Assessment.

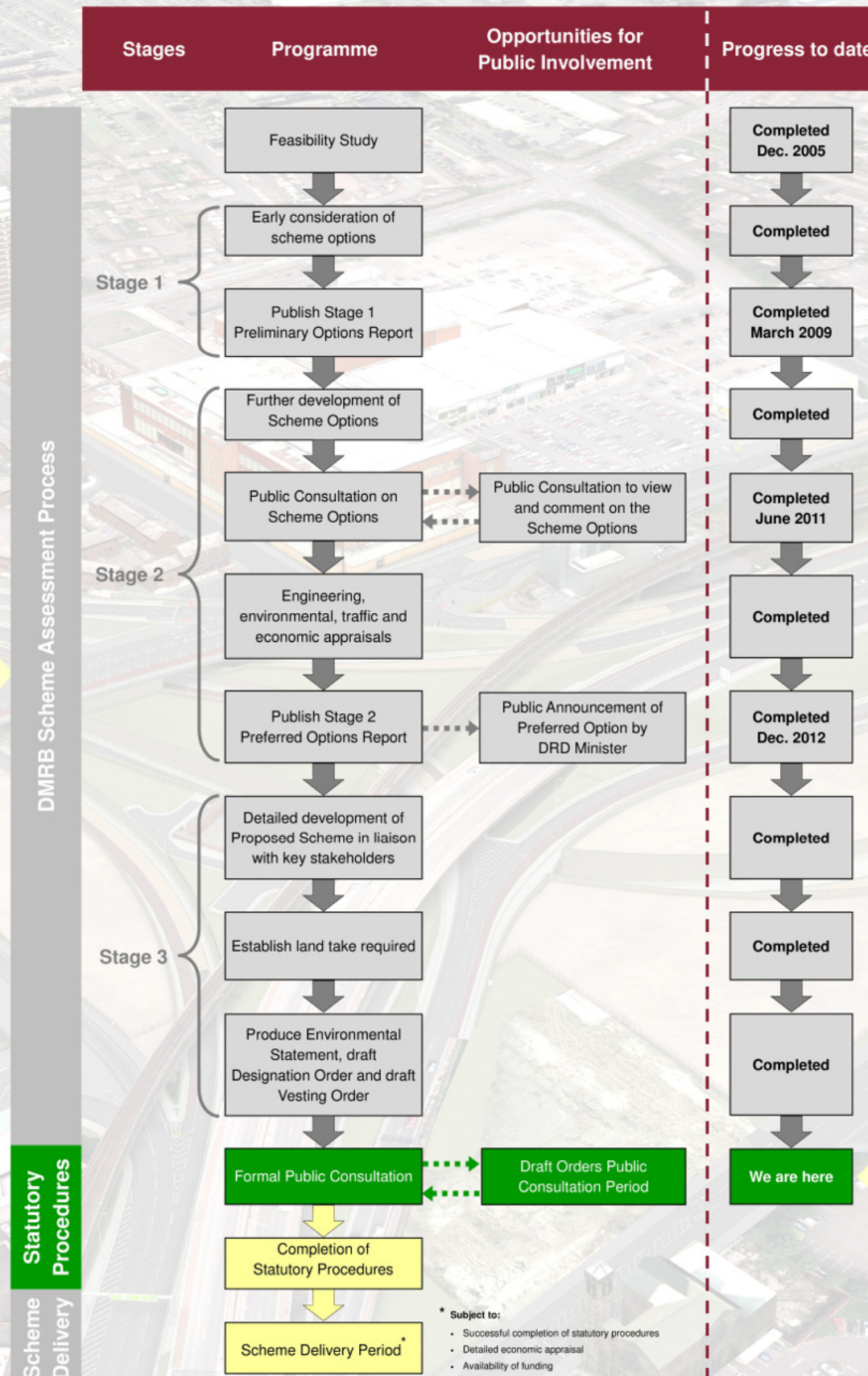
The **Stage 2 Scheme Assessment** was completed in December 2012. The **Preferred Options Report** identified a single Preferred Option for the scheme, informed in part by the findings of the previous public consultation in June 2011.

The **Stage 3 Scheme Assessment** was completed in January 2015. The **Proposed Scheme Report** is split into two parts:

- The Environmental Statement
- An Engineering, Traffic and Economic Assessment Report.

All Scheme Assessment reports can be viewed on the DRD website at:

drdni.gov.uk/yorkstreet



Statutory Procedures

With the Stage 3 Scheme Assessment process now complete, Transport NI has commenced the **statutory procedures** required under The Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 (as amended) to provide a legal basis for the scheme to proceed.

Formal planning approval is not required for roads schemes such as the proposed York Street Interchange. Instead, the statutory procedures require the publication of two pieces of draft legislation:

- A Notice of Intention to Make a Vesting Order (NIMVO), including a draft **Vesting Order** that indicates land to be vested by the Department to facilitate the scheme
- A Notice of Intention to Make a Designation Order (NIMDO), including a draft **Designation Order** that identifies the route and status of new links, including any roads to be stopped up.

In addition, the statutory procedures require the formal publication of the completed Environmental Statement that summarises the findings from the completed Environmental Impact Assessment of the scheme.

The publication of these documents starts a period of formal public consultation to allow all stakeholders to view the proposals and comment, support or object to the draft Vesting Order or Designation Order.

Depending on the number and nature of responses to the public consultation, Transport NI may decide to hold a Public Inquiry into the scheme, chaired by an Inspector nominated by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

If a Public Inquiry is held, Transport NI will await the findings of the Inspector's Report before deciding whether to publish a Notice of Intention to Proceed with the scheme and complete the statutory procedures by publishing the final Designation and Vesting Orders.

Whilst completion of the statutory procedures would represent an important milestone in delivery of the scheme, progression to construction would also be subject to the outcome of a separate detailed economic appraisal and the availability of funding.