

Frequently Asked Questions

The Birnam to Ballinluig A9 Community Group and Transport Scotland are working together to agree roads and junctions options for the Pass of Birnam to Tay Crossing section of the A9 dualling project.

What is the Community Group trying to do?

Get the best result for the community in the long-term from the A9 dualling. After Transport Scotland and Jacobs presented design options to the community in January 2016, we expressed the community concerns about the impact of these designs. We have now brought the community and Transport Scotland together to engage in a *Co-Creative Design Process* and come up with the **preferred road design option** for both the local community and Transport Scotland

What's a Co-Creative Process?

Put simply, the community will sit “round the table” with Transport Scotland over about five months in 2018 and will work through a process to identify, develop and evaluate preferred roads and junctions options for the A9 dualling project at Dunkeld and Birnam to Tay Crossing.

I thought Transport Scotland had three options we have to pick from?

The options initially proposed by Transport Scotland in January 2016 are no longer “on the table” as the only options. We will now work together to offer these and newer options. New ideas can be proposed by the community and will be considered. The community will input into the design process, rather than selecting from a few options provided by Transport Scotland.

What are the benefits of a Co-Creative Process?

This process gives the community a meaningful role in proposing and refining options with Transport Scotland. It means we can shape and inform the road design using our local knowledge to minimise the impacts and maximise benefits, rather than a few, limited designs options being presented to the community.

Who is involved in this Co-Creative Process?

The two main partners seeking to reach a preferred option to meet their needs are Transport Scotland and the Community. The Co-creative will be supported by Planning Aid for Scotland (known as PAS) who will facilitate the process and Jacobs, who are the contractor for the A9 dualling project and act on behalf of Transport Scotland.

How will it be run?

A steering group comprising these organisations and representatives from the Community Group will develop and guide the process, with a Programme Board comprising Transport Scotland the Community overseeing all arrangements. Meetings are now underway to agree the design of the co-creative process. This will be completed by December, with a Dunkeld and Birnam Community Council launch of the process planned for January.

When will all this happen?

The aim is to start the Co-Creative process in January 2018 and have defined the joint design option by the end of May 2018. The community will be fully involved and we urge you to engage in this critical process to design the A9 dualling in our area.

How will it all work?

Both Transport Scotland and the community's objectives from the A9 Dualling will be the starting point and inform all discussions. This is why “The Big Ask” today is important. We expect the Co-Creative discussions to identify different road design options – there are lots of ideas – then narrow these to a few, based on what is possible and understanding the local impact to reach the preferred option.

How will the community be involved?

The community will be able to contribute at various stages throughout as well as confirm the progress of the process. These opportunities will be advertised locally in advance. It's crucial that as many people get involved as possible. This is an approach that has never been tried in the UK. It gives the community a real say in the process of designing the road that we will live with for decades to come.

Why do we even need community objectives?

Transport Scotland already have their objectives for the dualling. We need to establish ours to prioritise what matters most to the local community and help guide the discussions during the co-creative process.

Where do we start with these objectives?

Information from the community has been gathered through the community survey in 2016, the open programme discussing A9 dualling impacts in June this year, and more recently in October/November through workshops to identify what people think is most important.

What's the purpose of today?

Today's big community event (Saturday 11th November) gives the community a final opportunity to agree and prioritise the draft objectives. The community objectives will be finalised following this event, which will then go into the co-creative process to inform the design of the road.

What are Transport Scotland's objectives?

- To improve the operational performance of the A9 by reducing journey times and improving journey time reliability
- To improve safety for motorised and non-motorised users by reducing accident severity and reducing driver stress
- To facilitate active travel within the corridor
- To improve integration with Public Transport Facilities

Surely Transport Scotland must have constraints they are insisting upon?

Yes, they have three 'red lines' that must be adhered to. These are that the Scottish Government Minister for Transport has the final decision; that all parts of the community can be involved; and that solely dualling options are considered for this section of the A9.

How much will construction of this section of the A9 cost?

We understand the target budget for this section is £400-£500million budget and dualling of the whole A9 is to be completed by 2025. There isn't a preferred design yet, so there are no detailed costings of this.

There will be financial constraints, and time pressure but we are currently at the start of that process with a "blank canvas". We have a unique chance to inform and contribute to the designs at the beginning to get the best solution for the community.

Who has the final say?

Transport Scotland are responsible for the budget and final design of the project. Transport Scotland will present options to the Minister for Transport, who will take the final decision. Transport Scotland are committed to putting forward the Co-Creative design option developed by the community to Ministers.

Will Transport Scotland support the design identified in the Co-Creative?

Transport Scotland are committed to the co-creative process and joint terms of engagement have been agreed by all parties. The Scottish Government are also committed to this joint approach with the community, and we have high level political support for the process.

When will we know which road design option will be built?

The community will contribute to the design options during the Co-Creative process in the first half of 2018. This way of developing an infrastructure project with the community has never been done before, and it is our only chance to have our say on how the final road will look. Final options will be submitted to the Minister for approval sometime after June 2018. The community will be informed of the Minister's decision after this point.

What will happen after that?

Transport Scotland and Jacobs will then develop the preferred design option in more detail before getting the necessary legal approval to build. The construction will begin after this point. There are no timeframes for this at present.

Birnam to Ballinluig A9 Community Group

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For further information, please email us on

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And like our Facebook Page *Birnam to Ballinluig A9 Community Group*