



Department
for Transport

Key Route Network Consultation

Devolving more powers and responsibilities for locally important roads to metro mayors and their combined authorities

Thank you for responding to our consultation. Your views will assist with determining the extent of reform needed to create a more consistent and integrated approach to the management of Key Route Networks (KRN) across England's city regions.

The closing date is 24 September 2021 at 23:45.

Please submit your consultation response to: KRNconsultation@dft.gov.uk

Confidentiality and data protection

This consultation by the Department for Transport (DfT) seeks views on giving metro mayors and their combined authorities greater decision-making powers and accountability for KRN.

In this consultation we're asking for your name and email, in case we need to ask you follow-up questions about your responses (you do not have to give us this personal information, but if you do provide it, we will use it only for the purpose of asking follow-up questions).

Your consultation response and the processing of personal data that it entails is necessary for the exercise of our functions as a government department. DfT will, under data protection law, be the controller for this information. [DfT's privacy policy](#) has more information about your rights in relation to your personal data, how to complain and how to contact the Data Protection Officer.

We will not use your name or other personal details that could identify you when we report the results of the consultation. Any information you provide will be kept securely and destroyed within 3 years of the closing date.

YOUR DETAILS

A. Your (used for contact details only):

name?

email?

B. Are you responding as:

- an individual?
 on behalf of an organisation

C. In what region of the United Kingdom are you based?

- North East (England)
- North West (England)
- Yorkshire and The Humber (England)
- East Midlands (England)
- West Midlands (England)
- East of England
- London (England)
- South East (England)
- South West (England)
- Wales
- Scotland
- Northern Ireland

Outside the United Kingdom at:

ORGANISATION DETAILS

D. Your organisation's:

name?

main business or activity?

PROPOSALS

SECTION 1

Providing metro mayors with additional highway management powers

Please refer to sections 2.7 to 2.12 of the consultation document for further detail.

1. Should, in your view, mayors hold highway authority powers for managing KRN's?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Your reasons are?

The West Yorkshire Mayor came into post in May 2021 and, as set out in our Devolution Deal, the work on a KRN strategy will commence but it will take time for this strategy to be fully developed and implemented, and the strategic role of the Mayor and the Combined Authority, and what this means for functions and powers, is yet to be fully understood.

There is a strong tradition of partnership working with our five constituent authorities, demonstrated through our successful bidding and delivery of major transport scheme funding programmes such as the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund, Leeds Public Transport Investment programme and Transforming

Cities Fund. We wish this to continue, and effective management of the Key Route Network, in collaboration with our partners, is an important aspect to ensuring that the journey time and reliability benefits of highway improvement schemes are fully realised.

Management of the Key Route Network will play a fundamental part in ensuring the interventions identified in the Combined Authority's Bus Service Improvement Plan and City Region Transport Settlement are successfully delivered and achieve the Mayor's ambitions and priorities in relation to bus reform and delivery of a mass transit system. However it is premature at this stage to comment on the suitability or need for strengthening of operational powers.

There is likely to be a review of working arrangements and delivery in 12 to 18 months when the Combined Authority and its partners will be in a better position to comment on the appropriateness of highway authority powers for managing KRN's.

2. Which, if any, functions or powers do you think should be transferred to mayors, including those listed in table 1? Please include any powers you think are missing.

The promotion of road safety was not included in the highway powers in the devolution deal. With the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner becoming part of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority in May 2021, all Police and Crime Commissioner functions are now the responsibility of the Mayor and positive working relationships are being established with the Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime.

The Combined Authority has previously prioritised road safety with Transport Strategy and policies, performance targets and funding programmes but the approach can be expected to be further strengthened with the input of the Police and Crime function. Through collaboration with partner councils, we already address this priority by ensuring the highway infrastructure schemes we design and develop have road safety in mind.

3. With reference to the functions listed in table 1, to what extent, do you think, transferring these functions will allow for effective management of the KRN?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Your reasons are?

No response at this current time

4. Please explain what impact these changes could have for the following on the KRN:

- Congestion
- Air quality
- Bus priority
- Cycling/walking infrastructure

SECTION 2

Sole and concurrent highway powers

Please refer to sections 2.13 to 2.17 of the consultation document for further detail.

5. Should, in your view, mayors solely hold any highway powers over the KRN?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Your reasons are?

No response at this current time

6. If powers are held concurrently, should, in your view, the exercise of those powers be subject to the:

- majority agreement of constituent authorities?
- unanimous agreement of constituent authorities?

Why do you think powers should/should not be distributed in this way?

No response at this current time

7. Which, if any, highway powers should mayors hold for all roads in the city region? Please list the powers that should be transferred.

No response at this current time

Please give the reasons why you think mayors should hold these powers.

SECTION 3

Ability to delegate highways powers

Please refer to sections 2.18 to 2.20 of the consultation document for further detail.

8. Which, if any, highway powers do you think should MCAs be able to delegate to local authorities?

No response at this current time

What, in your view, are the benefits and risks?

SECTION 4

Mayors to have powers to direct an LA to deliver schemes

Please refer to section 2.21 to 2.22 of the consultation document for further detail.

9. Should, in your view, mayors have a power of direction on the KRN, or in certain circumstances on other roads?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

In what circumstances should such a power be used?

No response at this current time

What, in your view, are the benefits and risks of using such a power?

SECTION 5

Power to change responsibility for a KRN route

Please refer to sections 2.23 to 2.26 of the consultation document for further detail.

10. Should, in your view, mayors and local authorities be able to request from the Secretary of State for Transport that a route is added or removed from the KRN?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

What, in your view, are the benefits and risks?

No response at this current time

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

11. What, in your opinion, would the impacts of the above proposals be on:

- affected organisations (including costs, benefits, capabilities, staffing capacity and skill requirements)?

No response at this current time

- road users?

No response at this current time

12. What are the main issues with the way KRN currently operate in your area?

No response at this current time

13. What other actions beyond our proposals, if any, do you think are required to overcome the issues on the KRN?

No response at this current time

14. Any other comments?