



Response of the Road Haulage Association to Shropshire Council

“Shrewsbury North West Relief Road Public Consultation 2017”

6 November 2017

Background about the RHA

1. The RHA is the leading trade association representing road haulage and distribution companies, which operate HGVs as profit centres. Our 7,000 members, operating near to 100,000 HGVs, range from single-truck firms to those with thousands of vehicles. These companies provide essential services on which the people and businesses of the UK depend.
2. We proactively encourage a spirit of entrepreneurship, compliance, profitability, safety and social responsibility. We do so through a range of advice, representation and services, including training.
3. We would like to thank Shropshire Council for the consultation and the opportunity to comment on the issues raised.

General Comments

4. The road network is very important to members of the RHA. For RHA members the road network is more than just a piece of infrastructure, it is their everyday place of work, as such RHA members have a unique appreciation of the road network.
5. Road haulage is of vital importance to the distribution of goods, without which there would be no food in the shops or material for construction. Therefore it is important to ensure any change to the road network does not delay HGVs.
6. In this consultation the RHA has only answered questions that are relevant for our members.



Responses to the Questions:

1. Having viewed the exhibition boards or information on the website about the North West Relief Road, how strongly do you agree or disagree that the North West Relief Road preferred route should be built?

Agree

2. If you agree that the NWRR should be built what are the main reasons for this?

If the NWRR does ease congestion, then the Road Haulage Association is very supportive. However it must be stressed that alongside congestion RHA members are also very concerned about the state of roads and roadworks in the area. More should be done to improve roads in the area and increase the speed of roadworks.

5. Is there anything else you would like to add? (For example if you agree with the NWRR being built but have some specific concerns that need to be addressed please let us know.)

The RHA is very concerned that the lay-bys are now not included in the plan. This will create further obstacles for HGV drivers requiring to park in a safe place for their statutory rest. Already there are not many truck parking facilities in the area which will hinder the ability of HGVs to make deliveries and could damage the local economy.

Final Comments: The RHA supports the proposals especially if it will ease congestion. However we urge the council to also improve the state of roads and the efficiency of roadworks in the area. The RHA also urges the council to include lay-bys in the proposals so as to allow HGVs to make deliveries into the area smoothly and efficiently.

6 November 2017
Jason Esi
Policy Researcher
Road Haulage Association
j.esi@rha.uk.net