



Department
for Transport

Reducing the impact of road works

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My presentation will cover

- ▶ Update on new Ministers
- ▶ An overview of the Department for Transport's strategy
- ▶ Details of our current plans and work we are taking forward





The Ministerial team

- ▶ **Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP**

- ▶ MP for Epsom and Ewell
- ▶ Secretary of State for Transport



- ▶ **Andrew Jones MP**

- ▶ MP for Harrogate and Knaresborough
- ▶ Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
- ▶ Portfolio includes street works





The DfT's strategic priorities are set out in our single departmental plan 2015-2020

- ▶ Boosting economic growth and opportunity
- ▶ Building a One Nation Britain
- ▶ Safe, secure and sustainable transport and

- ▶ Improving journeys





This is against the backdrop of these pressures

- ▶ Forecast traffic growth and the need for more efficient and effective management of the road network
- ▶ Resources and the need to do more with less
- ▶ The scale and speed of infrastructure investment
- ▶ Information and the needs of the digital economy
- ▶ Public expectation





We want to focus activity on achieving these strategic outcomes

- ▶ Reducing congestion and supporting economic growth
- ▶ Improving satisfaction amongst road users and the general public
- ▶ Supporting innovation and the digital economy
- ▶ Better co-ordination, planning and communication
- ▶ Building collective responsibility for effective management of the network
- ▶ Proportionate regulation that
 - ▶ Enables access
 - ▶ Ensures safety
 - ▶ Improves consistency





This year's consultation was aimed at addressing the top two outcomes

- ▶ This was summer 2015 in July
- ▶ On a local 'A' road
- ▶ Works were completed, but temporary traffic signals left in place causing congestion and disruption
- ▶ Photograph taken by the then Secretary of State for Transport





Reducing disruption on local 'A' roads

- ▶ Consulted between 12th April and 27th May
- ▶ Aim is to ensure works are not left in place unattended at weekends
- ▶ The site should either be cleared, or works completed, or works should continue throughout the weekend
- ▶ Temporary traffic lights should be removed as soon as the works are complete
- ▶ The requirement would apply to all works
- ▶ It would apply to local 'A' roads in England – about 10% of the network



Reducing disruption on local 'A' roads

- ▶ Consultation considered 4 options:
 - ▶ Do nothing
 - ▶ Asking for voluntary change
 - ▶ Mandate permit schemes everywhere and implement through conditions
 - ▶ Impose charges of up to £5k per day to compel compliance
 - Would be a charge, not a fine, so administered like overrun charges
 - Would be a maximum charge for each day
- ▶ Charging was the Government's preferred option



It's not just Ministers that think we can do better

- ▶ One response to the consultation highlighted the public's perception of what we do. This was from the AA who explored attitudes to roadworks via their AA-Populus panel. They received 21,741 responses
 - ▶ 89% agree (55% strongly) there are often traffic restrictions when no one is working
 - ▶ 86% agree (50% strongly) road works could be carried out more efficiently
 - ▶ 83% agree (49% strongly) restrictions are left in place at weekends unnecessarily
 - ▶ 82% agree (44% strongly) temporary traffic lights are often not properly timed to take account of traffic flow
 - ▶ 78% agree (49% strongly) restrictions are left in place in evenings unnecessarily
 - ▶ 67% supported (31% strongly) the need for more government regulation of roadworks
 - ▶ 54% agree (43% slightly) those carrying out road works do their best to notify affected road users before work starts
 - ▶ 49% agreed (31% slightly agreed and 33% neither agreed or disagreed) temporary traffic lights often go wrong



Other work underway or being planned

- ▶ Look out for updates
 - ▶ Statutory guidance on inspections
 - ▶ Qualifications and training
 - ▶ SROH
- ▶ Permit schemes
 - ▶ We sent out via HAUC an advice note on developing and varying schemes
 - ▶ Formal evaluation to be carried out during 2017
- ▶ What next for lane rental?
- ▶ Where next for information and data?



Any questions?

