

Introduction

A Route Management Strategy is being developed for the A194(M)/A184/A19 trunk road. The strategy will provide a framework to enable the Highways Agency to manage the route over the ten-year period of the RMS. It aims to ensure that the route is operated, maintained and improved in a way that will:

- spend the available money most effectively
- tie-in better with regional transport and planning decisions
- make better use of the existing road.

In developing this strategy, which is still in draft, we have obtained the views of key stakeholders such as local councils, regional planning authorities, bus operators, port authorities, the police and other relevant organisations.

This leaflet is a brief summary of the main elements of the strategy, but copies of the full Strategy can be viewed at the deposit locations listed overleaf.

Now it's your turn to have a say

Route Description and Functions

The route of the study runs from the junction of the A1(M)/A194(M), follows the A194(M) to White Mare Pool interchange, then follows the A184 to Testo's roundabout and continues north along the A19 to again join the A1 at the Seaton Burn junction. The route does not include the Tyne Tunnel or the junctions at each entrance as these are the responsibility of the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Authority and are outside the control of the Highways Agency. In total, the route is 27.7km in length (17.3 miles). 6.1km (3.8 miles) is motorway and the remainder is all-purpose dual carriageway road.



The route.....

- forms part of the national strategic route between the north-east and the midlands, the south of the country and Scotland
- is of major regional significance, connecting North and South Tyneside, Gateshead, Sunderland, Northumberland, Tees Valley and North Yorkshire
- connects the freight port (south of the Tyne) and passenger port (north of the Tyne) to the national motorway and trunk road network
- connects major industry and employment sites to the rest of the motorway and trunk road network. The route is a major transport link for the movement of freight, supporting economic activity and facilitating regional regeneration
- provides indirect access to the region's ports and airports
- provides a distributor function around large population centres
- supports access to rural and regional services including shops, education, healthcare facilities, public transport, etc.
- provides access for traffic at the River Tyne
- is an alternative route in emergencies, in particular to the A1 Western Bypass
- provides a public transport route corridor
- provides access to rail interchanges and Park & Ride sites
- serves as a commuting route, especially in the case of the A184 into the centre of Newcastle and Gateshead
- provides access for tourism (European as well as domestic)
- connects the local communities to the motorway and trunk road network
- links communities and allows movement between them along the route
- provides pedestrian and cycle routes within local areas along certain sections of the route
- provides for direct access and agricultural access along the A184
- bypasses urban communities.

Route Objectives

Route Objectives have been identified which set out the aims that the Strategy is designed to achieve.

These support the Government's five policy objectives for transport to:

- contribute to an efficient economy and to support sustainable economic growth in appropriate locations
- improve safety for all travellers
- protect and enhance the built and natural environment
- promote accessibility to everyday facilities, especially for those without a car
- promote the integration of all forms of transport and land use planning.



Route Problems and Issues

The main problems and issues identified along the route include:

- Economy:** Congestion at junctions; impact of maintenance operations; delays due to incidents e.g. breakdowns
- Safety:** Accident rate at junctions; sign positioning; high cross winds; junction layout; variations in road standard
- Environment:** Water quality and pollution; land drainage; impacts on wildlife; traveller care facilities e.g. services, laybys, directional and information signs
- Accessibility:** Pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders experience difficulties crossing the road; community severance
- Integration:** Bus stop facilities, low public transport usage, impacts of development

The Draft Strategy

The Draft Strategy includes proposals to:

- identify short and longer term measures to address congestion and seek to improve journey time reliability
- improve maintenance procedures and target improvements that will improve the operation of the route during maintenance works
- improve the strategic operation of the route
- facilitate and support sustainable regeneration and employment opportunities
- reduce the number of accidents along the route and improve overall safety
- improve the facilities that contribute to traveller care along the route
- enhance the landscape and biodiversity of the route and minimise the impact on cultural heritage
- minimise noise, air and water pollution and the risk of flooding associated with the route
- provide appropriate facilities for all non-motorised users crossing and travelling along the route and reduce the severance effect of the route on communities
- improve facilities that will contribute to the integration of different forms of public and freight transport
- maintain and develop relationships with relevant stakeholders and other bodies with an interest in the route.



We need your views

Please could you now complete and return the attached questionnaire to Hyder Consulting by 31st July 2004

(Hyder Consulting are preparing the Strategy on behalf of the Highways Agency)



Deposit Locations

Copies of the Draft Strategy are available for inspection at the following council offices:

- Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth
- Castle Morpeth Borough Council, The Kylins, Morpeth
- Blyth Valley Borough Council, Council Planning Offices, Seaton Delaval
- North Tyneside Borough Council, Town Hall, Wallsend
- South Tyneside Borough Council, Westoe Road, South Shields
- Newcastle City Council, Civic Centre, Barras Bridge, Newcastle also at: West Denton Way and 137 Shields Road
- City of Sunderland, Civic Centre, Burton Road, Sunderland also at: Washington Library, Independence Square
- Gateshead Borough Council, Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead
- Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham

The Draft Strategy can also be viewed on the HA website: www.highways.gov.uk and click on Road Projects.

Contacts

To have your say or for any further information, please use the following contacts:

- Complete the attached questionnaire
- Visit the website and submit a completed on-line form
- Email to: tudor.thomas@hyderconsulting.com
- Write to Tudor Thomas at:

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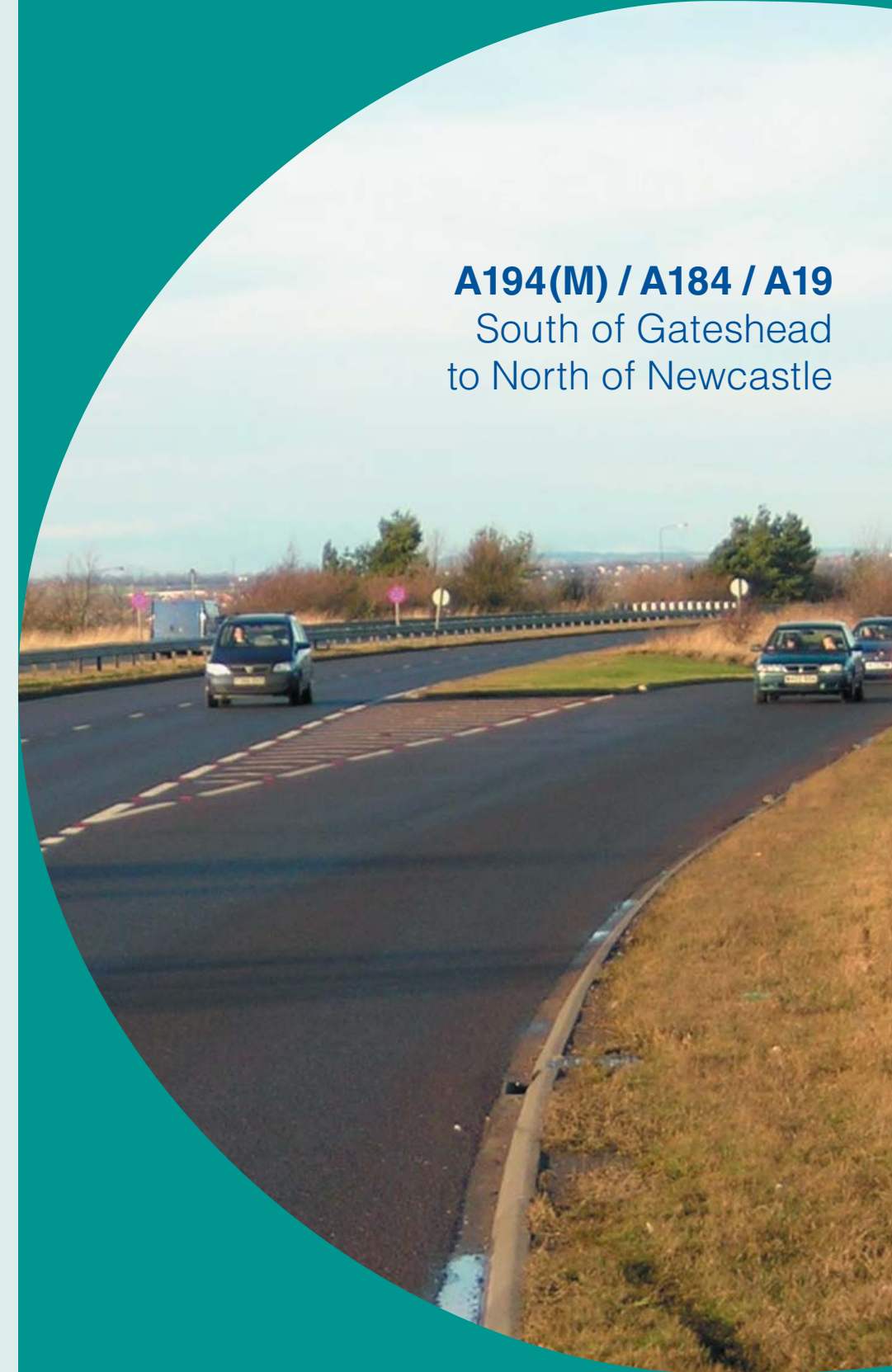
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Driving through roadworks
If you do have to drive through roadworks,
please take extra care.

- Keep to the speed limit – it is there for your safety
- Get into the correct lane in good time – don't keep switching
- Concentrate on the road ahead, not the roadworks
- Be alert for works traffic leaving or entering roadworks
- Keep a safe distance – there could be queues in front
- Observe all signs – they are there to help you

Remember that tiredness can kill.
Take regular breaks from driving.



A194(M) / A184 / A19
South of Gateshead
to North of Newcastle

Route Management Strategy
Public Consultation Leaflet