

# Access to Argyll and Bute (A83) September 2020



## Feedback form

Thank you for taking the time to visit the website showing our plans for this project.

Transport Scotland will use the content of your feedback form to help inform our work on this project.

Personal information will only be retained for the period of this project. All completed feedback forms will be shared with our consultants as required.

**1. Of the eleven route corridors on display, we are particularly interested in any local issues or constraints you feel should be taken into consideration in design and assessment work. We would be grateful for any such feedback in the box below - either in general terms or specific to certain options.**

First and foremost, it is imperative that the ongoing and longstanding issues at the A83 Rest and Be Thankful are completely and finally resolved. So far in 2020 there have been four major landslides, and several major landslides in years previously. When these landslides occur, drivers are either forced to use the single lane Old Military Road, although sometime this is also unavailable if rubble and debris makes it as far as that road, and if it is also unavailable, drivers are forced to make a significant detour via the A82.

Given the amount of money that the Scottish Government has already spent on mitigation measures that have patently failed to work, it is clear that a robust solution is considered. Option 1 looks best placed to deliver this, and in a realistic timescale, given communities have put up with this problem for long enough.

However, in delivering a new, permanent solution to resolve the problems at the Rest and Be Thankful, the Scottish Government should also look at other ways to further invest in Argyll and Bute's infrastructure and to better connect our communities. I believe that Option 5 should also be considered as part of a longer term ambition for Argyll and Bute, as I feel this would have major economic benefits for the region, cut costs for local businesses who transport goods to the Central Belt and other parts of the UK from Argyll and Bute, cut costs for local road users who travel to and from the Mull of Kintyre, Cowal and Lomond, and boost local tourism. Such an option would act as a better failsafe should certain local ferry services be called off due to bad weather, for example, the Campbeltown to Ardrossan service or the Tarbert to Portavadie service.

## **2. Community group**

**Are you a member of any community group that you feel should form part of our engagement plans?  
If so which one?**

N/A

**3. Do you think the format for the virtual sharing of information on this project and the opportunity to contact the team via email or telephone is suitable? Can you suggest any alternatives?**

A range of consultation methods should be considered, especially given the demographics of Argyll and Bute.

Many residents are elderly and do not have access to the internet, and many people living in more rural parts of Argyll and Bute do not have reliable broadband, and therefore there should be an option to write to the team with their views. While there are clearly difficulties with face-to-face public consultations, efforts should be made to ensure something like this, in a COVID-19 secure environment, can take place.

#### **4. Please tell us if there are any other options we should be considering or any other general comments**

In terms of Option 5, I believe that it would be worth Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government considering including rail as part of this project to provide a faster connection for parts of Argyll and Bute to Glasgow and Edinburgh. At present, the only rail connections in Argyll and Bute exist in Oban and Lorn. There would be clear economic and social benefits to extending rail into Cowal and Kintyre.

Transport Scotland and its agents will process any personal information provided on this form and it will be recorded solely for the purpose of this engagement exercise and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).