

Challenge Fund A403 and A4174 FAQ's

About the project

Q) What is the Challenge Fund?

A) The Challenge Fund is Department for Transport funding for major maintenance projects that are otherwise difficult to afford. The fund is designed to help maintain existing local highways infrastructure. The types of eligible projects include:

- Major maintenance strengthening or renewal of bridges, tunnels, retaining walls or other structures
- Major maintenance or renewal of carriageways (roads)
- Major maintenance or renewal of footways or cycleways
- Major maintenance or renewal of drainage assets
- Upgrade of street lighting.

Q) What projects have been awarded funding?

A) The A403 project is a joint project between Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council and covers the A403 road and pavement from Avonmouth Port to the M48 at Aust. It will be reconstructed with a four metre wide shared-use cycle way and energy efficient street lighting as well as improved drainage systems.

The A4174 project will be solely coordinated and delivered by South Gloucestershire Council and focuses on the maintenance of the A4174 Avon Ring Road between the A38 at Filton and the A4 at Hicks Gate. The work will include improvements to the carriageway, footpaths, cycle ways and street lighting. There will also be structural maintenance for the Filton Underpass, Bromley Heath Viaduct Bridge and Avon Valley Bridge.

Q) How much money has been awarded for the A403 and A4174 projects?

A) The challenge fund A403 project has been awarded £14.03 million from the Department of Transport. Of the total amount, £5.841m has been allocated to enhance and improve the A403 in South Gloucestershire. The challenge fund A4174 project has been awarded £15.5 million.

South Gloucestershire Council was one of four local authorities to have been successfully awarded its complete proposed allocation. Funding of the two projects will be spread across a three year period.

Q) What are the benefits of the projects for residents and businesses in South Gloucestershire?

A) Improving the condition of the A403 road will support the development of the Avonmouth Deep Water Container Port and Avonmouth and Severnside Enterprise Area. The enterprise area alone will provide 14,000 new employment opportunities over the next 12 years. The project will help provide improved infrastructure as the enterprise area development grows. The challenge fund A403 project will also complement the Roads Investment Strategy's new M49 junction which will be completed in 2020. This project will also deliver enhanced facilities for sustainable transport which is especially important in the Avonmouth area where car ownership figures are low.

The challenge fund A4174 project will help reduce traffic and congestion and will contribute towards minimising carbon and pollution. This project will connect into the successful [Metro-bus North Fringe to Hengrove Project](#) and improve public transportation. The improvements in this project will also assist the planned new developments below which include 9,000 new homes and 16,000 new employment opportunities:

- Emerson's Green Enterprise Area
- Harry Stoke New Neighbourhood
- University of the West of England campus
- Frenchay Hospital redevelopment
- Filton Enterprise Area
- Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood.

Q) How will the challenge fund project improve the A403 and A4174 carriageway?

A) The improvements to the challenge fund A403 and A4174 project will:

- 1) Minimise major maintenance requirements for the next 20 years on each carriageway and contribute towards extending the lifespan of the A403 and A4174 carriageway.
- 2) Improve road safety
- 3) Improve road conditions to reduce accidents and vehicle running costs.
- 4) Increase public transport facilities to meet the needs of local people
- 5) Provide a safer and healthier environment for pedestrians, cyclists and vulnerable people on roads.
- 6) Reduce verge maintenance requirements.
- 7) Provide resilience to flooding along both A4174 and A403 carriageway.
- 8) Reduce energy costs as a result of upgrading the street lighting on the A403 and A4174.
- 9) Reduce road noise and vehicle pollution benefiting local communities

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Q) What are the timescales of the project?

A) We will begin consultation on the A403 in July and work will begin later in the autumn this year. Bristol City Council will begin consultation with key businesses and residential community groups in late June and begin work on the A403 in July over an eight month period. Consultation of the A4174 schemes will be carried out this autumn and work on the A4174 will begin in spring 2016 over an 18 month period.

Q) What material are you using to resurface the roads?

A) We are using Hot Rolled Asphalt (HRA) to resurface our roads as the preferred material for use on major roads. HRA looks different from other surfacing material which is much more coarse in content and appearance. HRA is also more water resistant than other conventional surfacing materials and has a long proven track record of being durable and long lasting. This makes it more cost effective over time from the greater service life obtained from using it and reduces the need to undertake repair works to the worn surface.

Consultation and communication

Q) How do I find out more information and will I be able to have a say?

A) Once designs for each project have been drafted, a full public consultation will take place. The consultation will include an overview of the project as well as the opportunity to feed in your views on certain aspects.

The A403 consultation will begin in the summer and the A4174 be in autumn.

Following the consultation period, all comments will be reviewed and alterations to the draft proposals where appropriate will be applied. If you wish to be notified when the consultation period begins please email us on challenge.fund@southglos.gov.uk or follow us on our social media channels.

Q) What are the designs for the A403 and A4174 projects?

A) The A403 and A4174 are currently at the early design stage. Site investigations are undergoing and will influence the final design and construction techniques for material recycling and minimising carbon impact. Once completed, the designs will be published online and will be part of the consultation process.

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How the project work will affect travel

Q) Will there be traffic disruption, how will you prevent disruption and how will I be kept informed?

A) There will be disruption to traffic and traffic delays during the construction period of the A403 and A4174 projects. Please note wherever possible, works will be undertaken overnight and at weekends where traffic is at a minimum and not during peak travel times.

As soon as the design and delivery timescales for both projects are confirmed, a traffic management scheme including diversion routes will be developed, implemented and communicated clearly to businesses, commuters and residents via [web](#) (go to map layers and click on road, closures and diversions), radio and [social media channels](#) please click here for more information [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

The traffic management scheme for the A403 and A4174 will also include the roadworks relating to and impacting on the [Metro-bus North Fringe to Hengrove Project](#) and additional roadworks maintenance and projects to ensure minimal disruption to road users.

Q) How will you minimise dust and noise during the construction phase of the A403 and A4174 project?

A) Modern construction techniques will be used to minimise dust and noise which will be continually monitored during construction.

Q) Will there be improvements for cyclists and pedestrians along the routes?

A) Yes there will be significant improvements for cyclists.

The environmental impact

Q) Will wildlife and biodiversity be affected?

A) Every effort will be made to protect species and their habitat along the A403 and A4174. A full survey will be carried out on the A403 and A4174 to identify species and to carry out the appropriate measures taken to protect both the wildlife and their habitat as well as to improve biodiversity.

Q) Will trees and hedges have to be removed?

A) Every effort will be made to protect existing trees and hedges and where possible we will plant new trees. A tree survey has been carried out along the A403 and as a result proposals to improve and maintain trees along the route has been outlined. This does include the removal of certain trees to improve lines of sight for traffic. There may also be the need to maintain or remove trees and hedges to improve drainage along both routes.

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We will know more and confirm the drainage works along the A403 and A4174 once the drainage design has been completed.

Q) What will happen to overgrown vegetation?

A) During the project works of the A403 and A4174, we will look to remove all overgrown vegetation along the A403 and A4174 routes.

Additional information

Q) Are there any additional projects that will link to the Challenge Fund projects?

A) Yes there are. These are:

- 1) The [Metro-bus North Fringe to Hengrove Project](#) which is due for completion Autumn 2017 and will link to the A4174 project.
- 2) The [Cycle Ambition Fund](#) for the Bromley Heath Viaduct will link to A4174 project.
- 3) The Terabit West project includes inserting fibre optic infrastructure.
- 4) [A Forgotten Landscapes](#) project is a lottery heritage funded project that focuses on restoring the Heritage of the Lower Severn Vale Levels. A Forgotten Landscapes will link to the A403 challenge fund project.

Q) Why are you not resurfacing the roundabouts at the same time as the roads that join?

A) To resurface the roundabouts and the roads that join the roundabouts at the same time would actually cause more disruption to travellers including during peak times and can lead to the finished surface not lasting as long as it should do. Resurfacing one and then the other allows us to manage the traffic around the works more efficiently and safely. We will resurface the road that joins the roundabouts in October and return in the early part of 2016 to resurface the roundabouts themselves.

Q) When will you be resurfacing the roundabouts on the ring road following the works undertaken in October?

A) We intend resurfacing the roundabouts in early 2016. A resurfacing programme is being developed and updates will be provided when the works are to be undertaken.

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