

Toucan crossing A45 correspondence from Highways England

02/08/21

.....although an improved pedestrian crossing on the A45 at Stanwick Lakes scores highly on our ‘needs list’, we’re only able to progress a small number of schemes each year.

The team’s currently working on schemes that have a higher priority and it’s unlikely any intervention on the A45 will take place in the near future. That said, we’re aware of the need to improve the existing crossing and will reconsider our position should alternative funding become available.

26/08/21

We can’t give exact figures as we don’t have a like-for-like scheme to use as a comparison, but the cost for a Toucan crossing could be in the region of £300,000 to design and install. Each site is very different as you can appreciate, and therefore costs could vary considerably should we need to do additional work such as move any buried services or provide connecting paths etc. The normal process is that we carry out initial scoping work to understand the constraints which helps inform what the solution would look like and then develop this into a detailed design for construction. Cost estimates evolve as more information is known, and with all improvement schemes, we need to carry out a value-for-money assessment before we can secure funding and prioritise the work.

Development of schemes can take a while. For crossings, I would expect these to be around three years from concept to completion, but again, timescales can vary depending upon the priority of the project and also the location, as the ability to deliver is highly dependent upon the availability of the road space; including the activities on adjacent roads, should we need to close the road to build an improvement and divert the traffic onto an alternative route.

27/08/21

As mentioned previously, we are unable to progress a study at this location for some considerable time and any data collected now may well become out-dated by the time we are in a position to develop a scheme. However, we do recognise the benefits of working closely with stakeholders and your local knowledge will no doubt prove to be of great benefit in our assessment. As such we will be in touch with you again to seek your views as and when we are able to commence work on any improvements here.

Please accept my apologies that I am unable to offer anything more positive at this time.

Possible council actions:

Lobby MP (HE is funded by government)

Lobby NNC – what help can they give

Local campaign – there is one resident I know of that would throw her support behind this – she has already suggested crowd funding but without knowing the costs