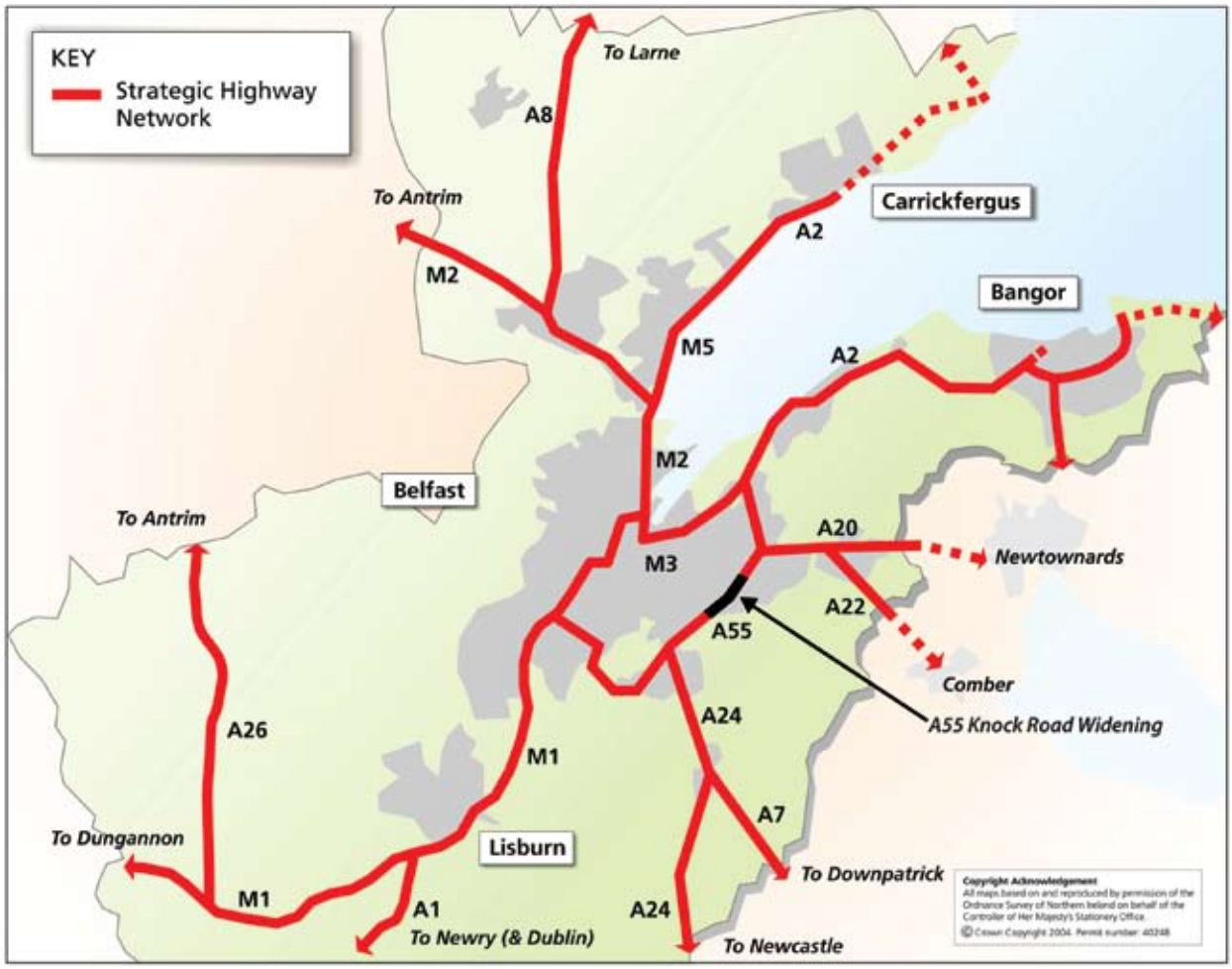
ROADS Service

Strategic Road Improvements

Belfast Metropolitan Corridor
A55 Knock Road Widening Scheme



Need for Scheme

The A55 trunk road provides a strategic link between the M1 at Stockman's Lane and the A2 Bangor Road at Tillysburn. Most of the route is served by dual carriageway; however a section of the road at Knock has only one lane in each direction.

The Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BTMP), published in 2004, proposes the widening of this narrow section to two lanes in each direction, together with right turning facilities.

This section of road, carrying about 40,000 vehicles per day, can cause traffic delay and congestion, especially at peak periods. Sub standard access, and reduced visibility for traffic turning in and out of the numerous frontage properties and side roads, has contributed to a significent number of collisions.

The Proposed scheme

The scheme will widen a 1.3km section of the existing carriageway between Glen Road and Kings Road, providing two lanes in each direction, together with a central median to accommodate right turning vehicles. The scheme will also upgrade existing junctions and provide improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

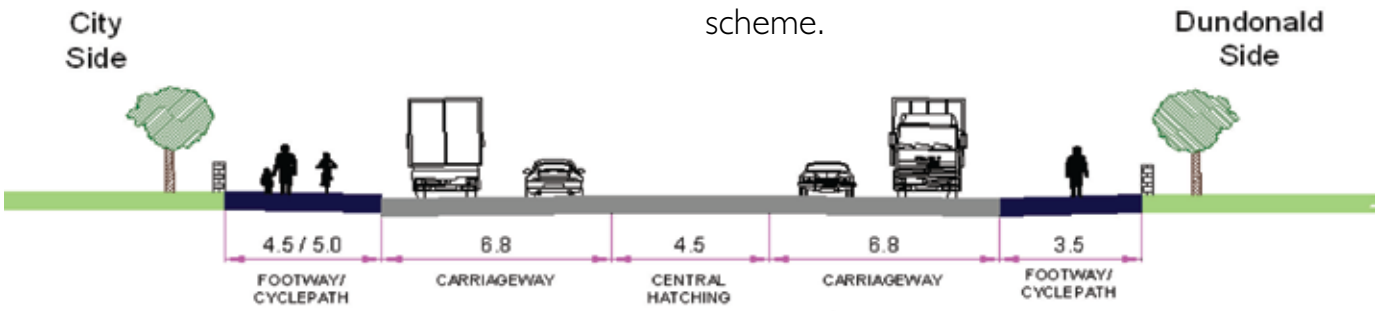
Benefits

The construction of this scheme will:

- reduce congestion for strategic traffic by providing more capacity along the road and at the main junctions.
- improve road safety by providing facilities for turning traffic at junctions.
- provide a more consistent standard of carriageway appropriate to the outer ring road.
- improve air quality by reducing the amount of congestion.

Progress

The scheme is currently in Roads Service's preparation pool. This is a list of schemes that will be taken forward through the relevant statutory procedures to construction stage, usually within the next five years. Following a public consultation period in June 2006, the detailed design, the preparation of an environmental statement, direction order and vesting order are now under way. When these are published in 2009 the public will have the opportunity to comment formally on the scheme.



PROPOSED SECTION