

Transition Chepstow Traffic Forum

Thursday 16th January 2020

Congestion Free Chepstow

UPDATE PROGRESS REPORT

- HIGHWAYS

Gerry Moss



INTRODUCTION

- ❑ Builds on 11-April-2019 presentations
- ❑ Strong public support for short term ACTION
 - ❖ Excellent media coverage
 - ❖ Example Highway solutions
- ❑ Today will talk about related PROGRESS, particularly:
 - ❖ Ken Skates (Welsh Gov. Minister) - instigated a way forward
 - ❖ TC discussions with Welsh Gov. & MCC representatives
 - ❖ Latest progress - Simon Jones (Welsh Gov. Director for Economic Infrastructure)
- ❑ Other Highway issues going forward

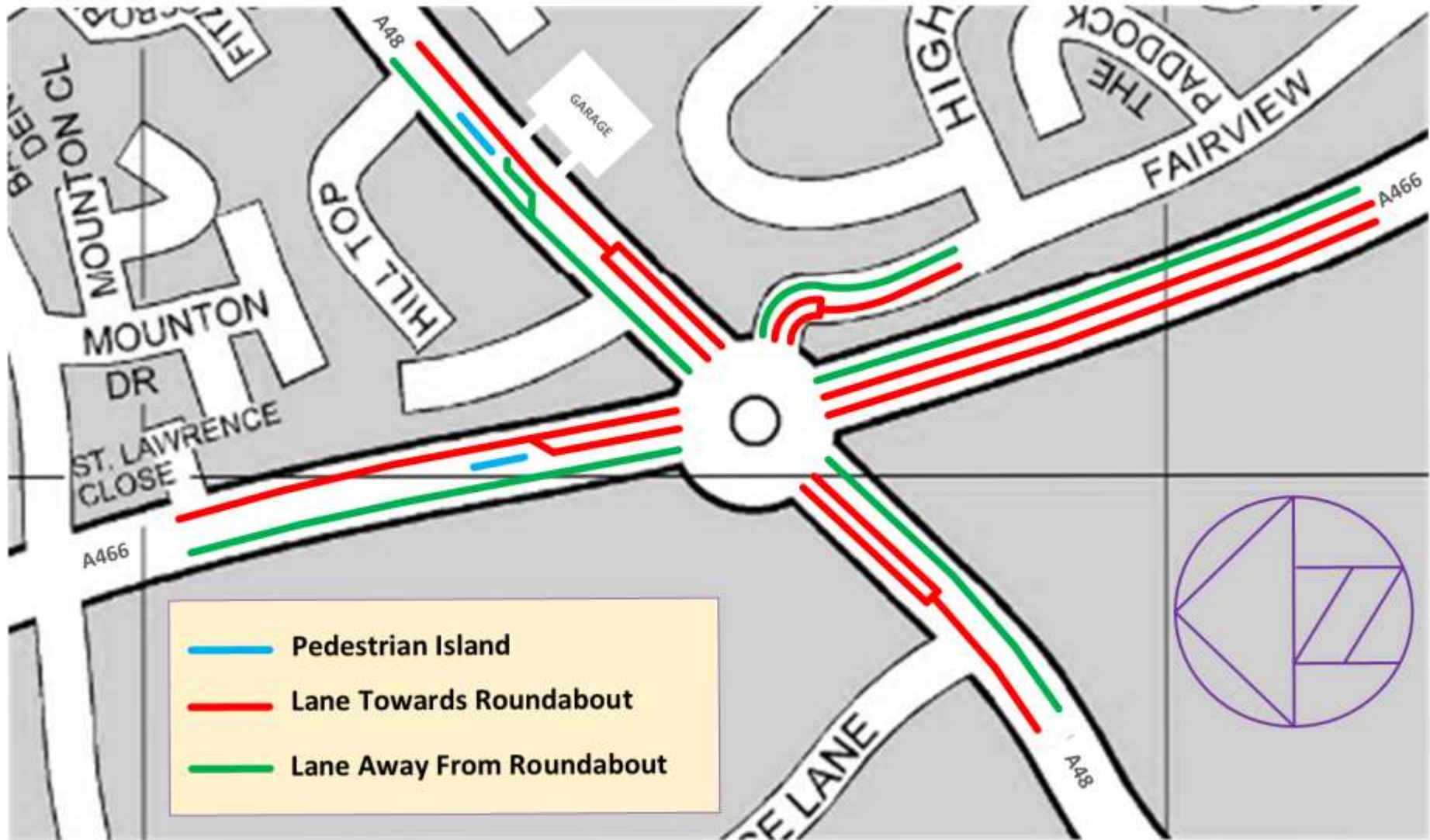
BASICS & ASSUMPTIONS

- ❑ **Most** Chepstow traffic congestion is caused by:
 - ❖ High Beech Roundabout (HBR) acting as a 'choke point'
- ❑ Regarding 2 previous proposals:
 - ❖ **OPTION 1** - Quick & cheap - white lining & kerb realignment
 - ❖ **OPTION 2** - Expensive & complex – major redesign of HBR
- ❑ More excellent ideas came forward including:
 - ❖ Hayes Gate A48-M48 Junction - by Alan Braund
 - ❖ Alternative HBR design - by Tom Siddal
- ❑ Hardwick Hill air pollution regularly exceeds WHO guidelines

MY PRESENTATION

- ❑ A very quick review of previous **2 OPTIONS**
- ❑ Key initiative - Ken Skates AM (Welsh Gov. Minister)
- ❑ Discussions with Dr Richard Morgan (Welsh Gov.)
- ❑ Latest progress – Simon Jones (Welsh Gov. Director)
- ❑ Discussions with Peter Fox (Leader, MCC) & Peter Matthews (CEO, MCC)
- ❑ Hardwick Hill air pollution issues
- ❑ Other key *highway* issues regarding *speedily* reducing Chepstow's current and growing traffic congestion

MINIMAL CHANGES TO CHEPSTOW HIGH BEECH ROUNDABOUT



SCHEMEMATIC DIAGRAM - Not to scale

OPTION 1

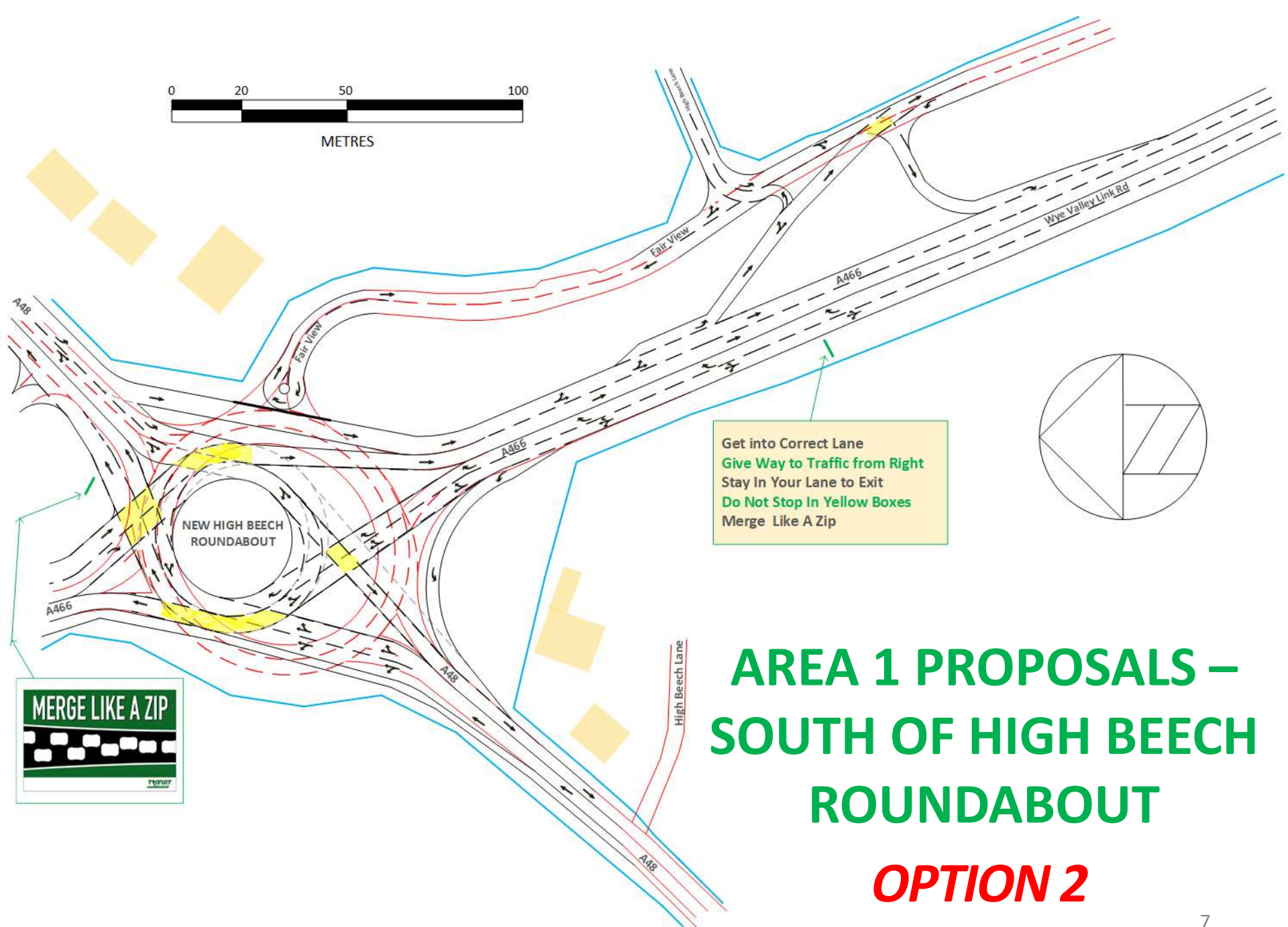
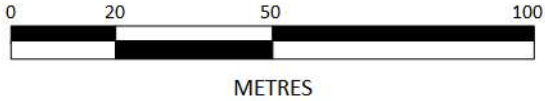
Requires minor kerb realignment & white line changes for additional lanes



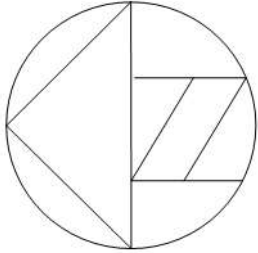
OPTION 2

LOCATION OF 2 AREAS WITH PROPOSED CHANGES

Changes in Areas 1 & 2 relate to:
addressing High Beech Roundabout congestion



Get into Correct Lane
Give Way to Traffic from Right
Stay In Your Lane to Exit
Do Not Stop In Yellow Boxes
Merge Like A Zip

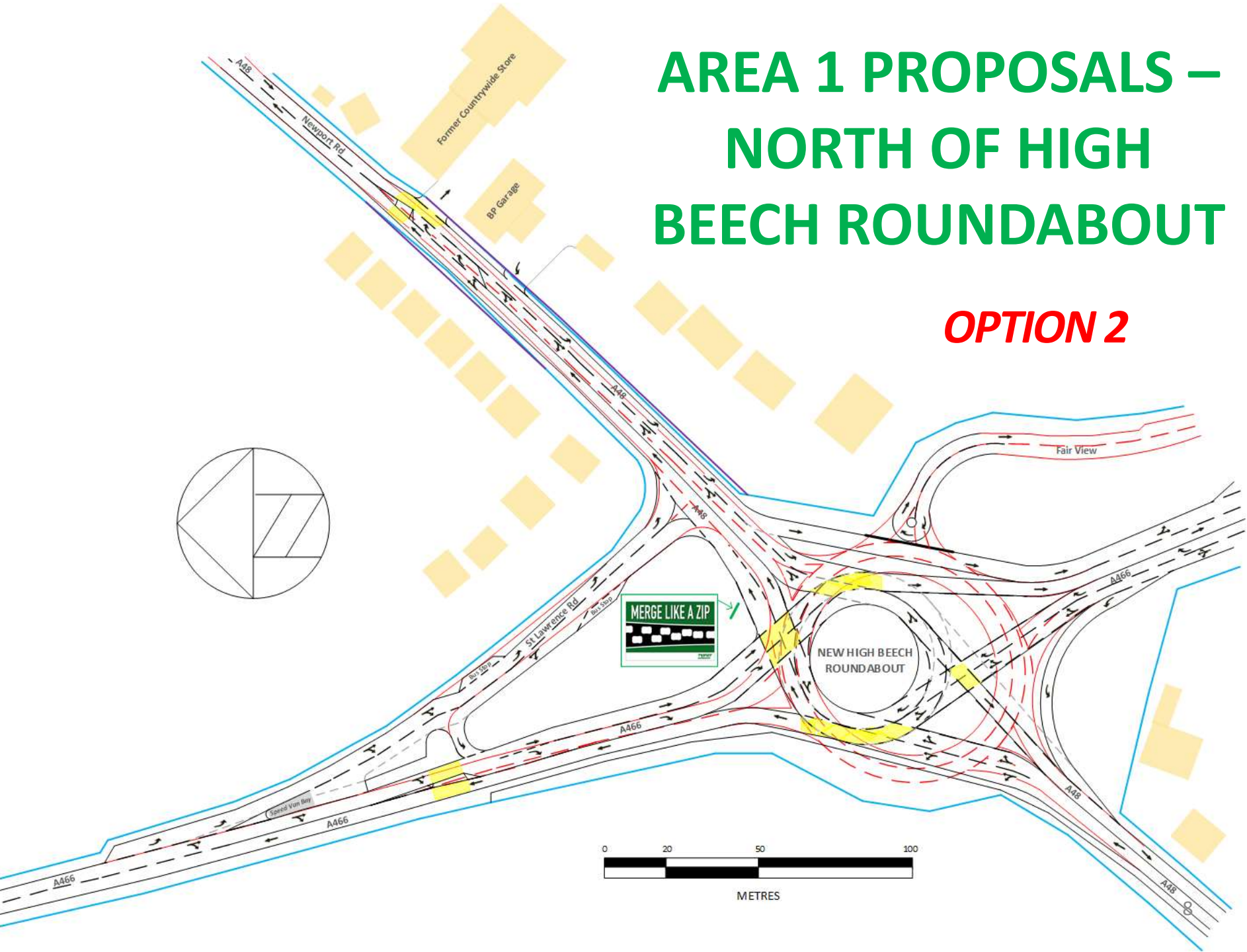


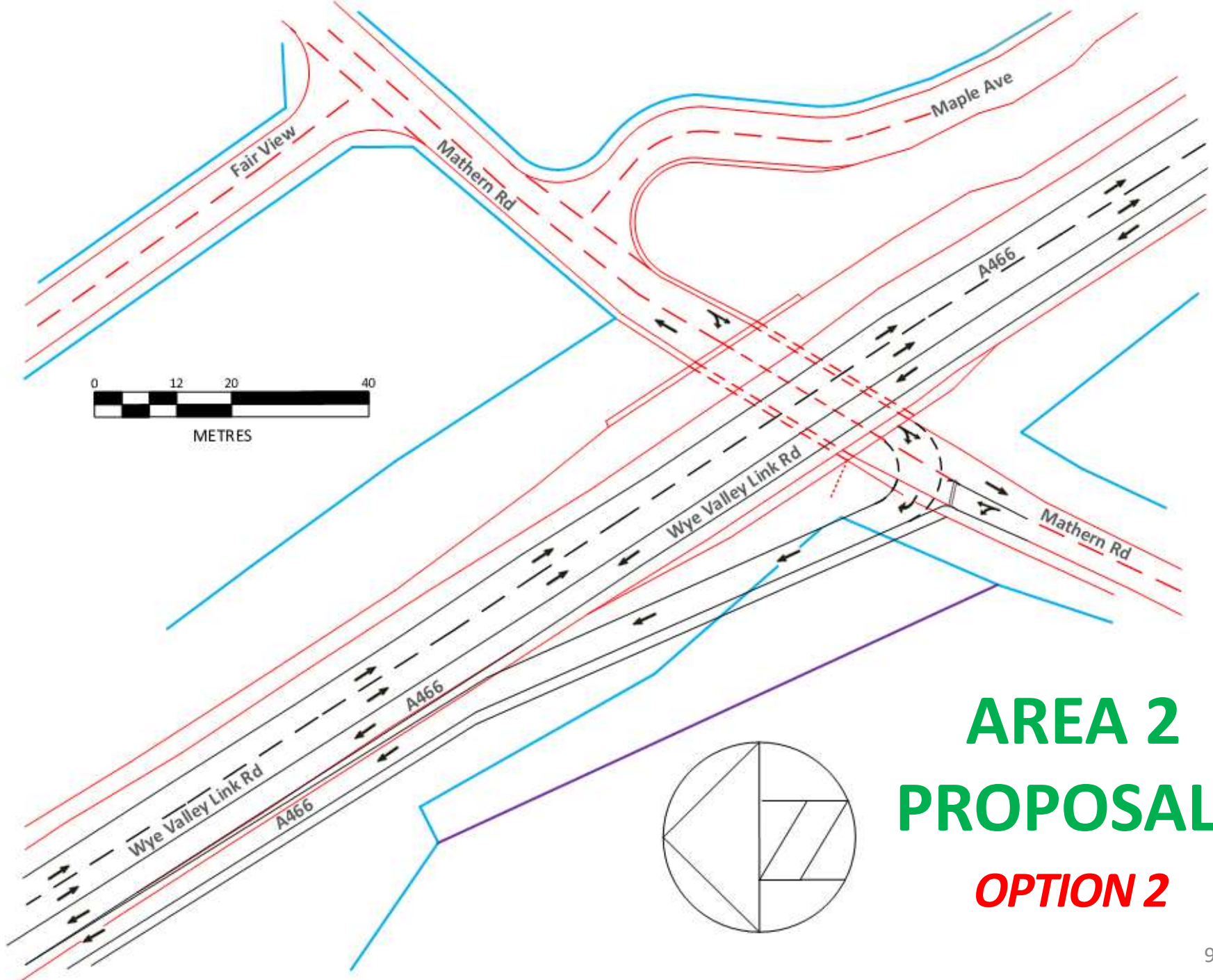
AREA 1 PROPOSALS – SOUTH OF HIGH BEECH ROUNDABOUT

OPTION 2

AREA 1 PROPOSALS – NORTH OF HIGH BEECH ROUNDABOUT

OPTION 2





AREA 2
PROPOSALS
OPTION 2

WELSH GOV. PROGRESS

- ❑ Ken Skates 26-Apr-19 letter to Nick Ramsey (AM):
 - ❖ Agreed to progress detailed design improvements at HBR in FY19/20 and said TC proposals at 11-Apr-19 meeting would inform this process
 - ❖ Depending on changes necessary to deliver significant benefits and funding availability, works could be implemented at HBR in FY20/21
- ❑ TC representatives reviewed progress with Richard Morgan on 12-Jul-19
- ❑ Simon Jones Dec'19 & Jan'20 emails confirm latest plans [based on:](#)
 - ❖ **Option 1 Feasibility Study** - completed
 - ❖ **Option 1 Detailed Design** – currently progressing
 - ❖ **Option 1 Implementation** – completion by 31-Mar-21 (FY20/21)
 - ❖ **Option 2 Feasibility Study** – currently progressing - completion by 31-Mar-20

MCC PROGRESS

- Peter Fox & Peter Matthews meeting with TC representatives on 12-Jul-19:
 - ❖ Confirmed MCC responsible for 3 of 5 roads onto HBR
 - ❖ Keen to help – subject to funding constraints
 - ❖ Willing to try and help with other public transport options

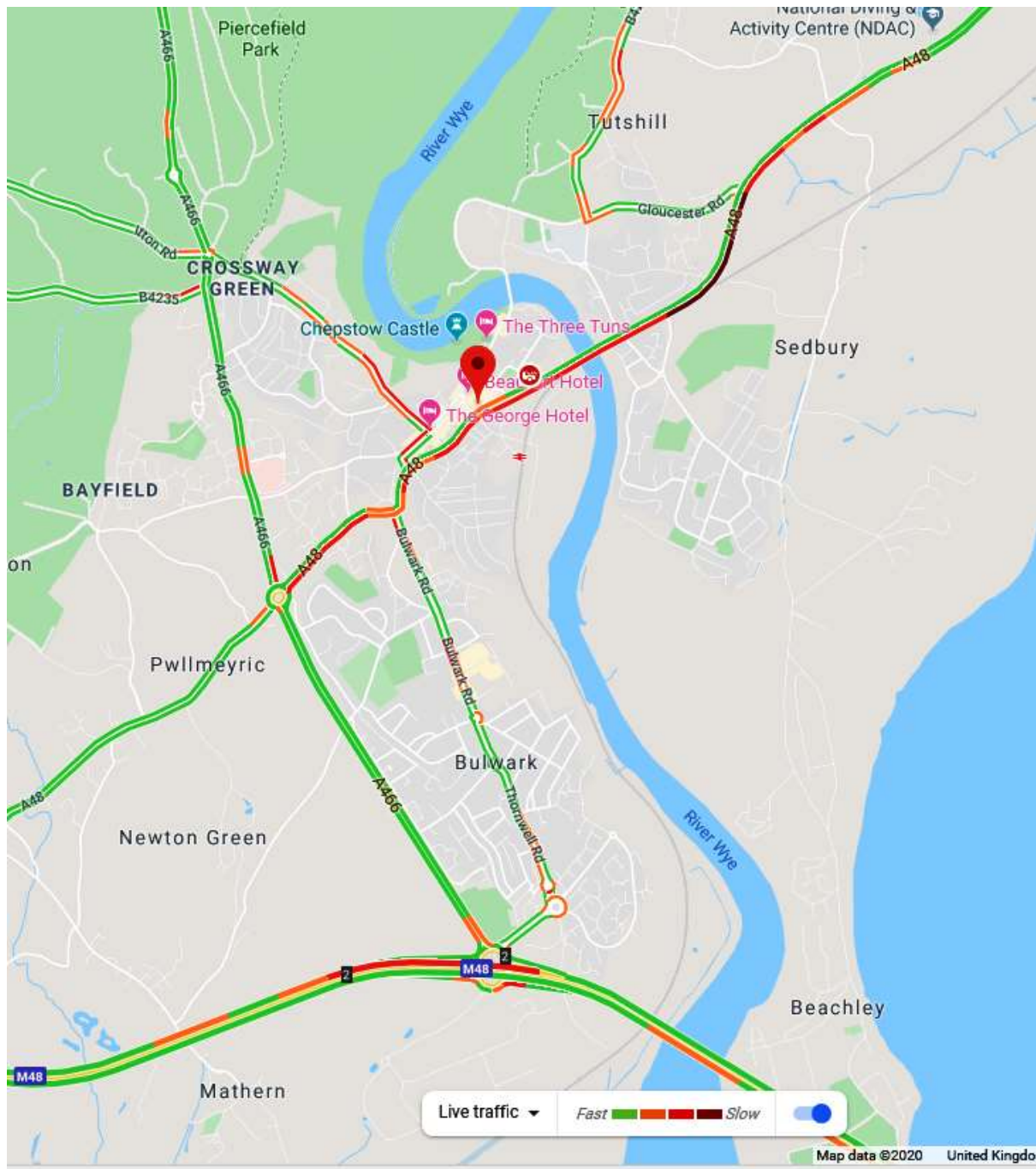
- Aug'19 email exchange re urgent minimal HBR white line improvements with Paul Keeble, Group Engineer – Highways, MCC
 - ❖ MCC declined after consulting Welsh Gov.

AIR POLLUTION

- ❑ EU vs WHO standards
- ❑ Major problem nationally & internationally, *e.g.*
 - ❖ 21-Oct-19 Kings College reported a study across 9 UK cities - showed days with **above average** air pollution results in extra 124 cardiac arrests that year; see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-50119981>
 - ❖ Many links available regarding Chepstow having major air pollution problems
- ❑ Chepstow A48 Hardwick Hill data shows compliance with EU regulations – but NOT WHO's
- ❑ TC Health & Consciousness Group to progress

OTHER CRITICAL HIGHWAY ISSUES

- ❑ High Beech Roundabout is just the main bottleneck – there are other major problem areas
- ❑ Tesco Traffic Light junctions on A48
- ❑ Bulwark Rd junction on A48
- ❑ Recent utility road works – awful extra congestion
- ❑ Revisions to HBR – **needs very careful implementation**
- ❑ **TC requests a May'20 progress meeting with WG**
- ❑ Bypass – thought to be *still* 10-20 years away & doesn't fit with TC's focus on **short term** congestion relief



FINALLY
Regarding the
need for careful
implementation
of High Beech
Roundabout
improvements
e.g. 2020 Summer
School Holidays

*Real time Google map
screen grab showing
Chepstow traffic
congestion at approx.
0915 on Thurs, 9-Jan-
2020*



Tesco access road Proposal No. 1

