

Platform for Prosperity – a highway improvement project.



Limited traffic capacity was a key constraint to economic growth in Southampton city centre and port, a major international gateway for trade and the cruise ship industry. The brief was to rebuild the vital arterial route leading to the Eastern Docks, easing traffic congestion and enhancing the public realm.

The project required improvements to highway and port infrastructure which would be delivered by separate sponsors but planned and managed together. This required specialist project management resource from Hampshire Services' engineering team.

We set up the project governance and led the delivery team, meeting fortnightly and managing the scheme through its consultation, design and delivery stages. We worked closely with a project board of senior delivery representatives and beneficiaries on all key strategic decisions.

The team overcame a number of challenges during the construction phase, including a royal visit, an event involving seven cruise ships, and the movement of several abnormal loads through the port.

Key benefits:

- the project was delivered on time and budget, and was an excellent example of public and private sector collaboration and partnership
- congestion on major cruise days has been significantly reduced
- abnormal loads can now access the docks without needing to use the whole carriageway and a police escort, reducing costs for hauliers
- the strategic aims of the project should be exceeded, with job creation already evident amongst intended business beneficiaries – for example, Carnival has employed over 350 new staff
- the infrastructure improvements have helped facilitate two significant local redevelopment schemes, Royal Pier Waterfront and Watermark, which may not have been viable with the existing highway network
- the public realm has been improved at Queen's Park and Queen's Terrace, with expansion of the park, better access and a safer pedestrian crossing, wider pavements for alfresco dining and a tree-lined square.

Location:
 Eastern Docks in
 Southampton.

Client:
 Southampton City Council
 and Associated British
 Ports.

Value:
 £13m scheme.

Completed:
 May 2015.

Specialist teams:

- Hampshire Services engineering (project management, communications)
- Southampton City Council (land, legal, planning, communications)
- Associated British Ports (project management, port side construction)
- Balfour Beatty (design, construction, communications, network management, transport planning)
- Capita Symonds (land, legal)
- Mott MacDonald (environmental)
- AKS Ward (construction)
- PTC (construction).

“ The quality of the project management provided by Hampshire Services was instrumental in delivering this challenging scheme in line with our aims as a client, on programme and to budget. ”

Pete Boustred, Southampton City Council



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Improved access for cruise passengers through Dock Gate 5.



Improvements to the public realm at Queen's Terrace and Queen's Park.



A 58m wind turbine blade safely arriving at the quayside.