

Transport East Forum briefing note

October 2020

Keeping the country moving and prospering

We believe in a connected country. We are passionate about making a positive impact on people's lives, the economy and the country as a whole.

Our major roads and motorways span over 4,300 miles across England, with over 4million journeys taken every day. The strategic road network (SRN) forms only two percent of the country's roads but carries a third of all traffic and two-thirds of all freight. It is the backbone of the country's transport network, and is essential to the regional and national economies. In fact, these roads help contribute £12 billion to the annual economy.

Our roads connect with railway stations, ports and airports to give people a choice of travel and to support interconnectivity. When it comes to getting people where they need to be, we provide three times more miles per person than the railways.

Our East region

The East region's 650 miles of motorways and A-roads support and boost a growing and vital economy. These eastern roads are supported by 250 traffic officers, both out on the road and in our control rooms who monitor and keep traffic moving safely. They are supported by our operational teams who are out maintaining our roads, whatever the weather.

We recognise that the region contrasts a mixture of high-tech business and housing growth closer to London (which has a population of 5.1m), alongside areas of scenic rural fenland and coastal towns and ports (which have a population of 3.5m). In contrast of the region's towns closer to London, three-quarters of land in rural East Anglia is used for farming to help feed the nation, and the area also remains a traditional holiday destination.

We're also helping UK businesses thrive, furthering the nation's economy through better connections to international hubs. Our region has established links to energy production, and now has ambitions to become the UK's foremost all-energy coast. There are also major ports in our region (including Felixstowe, Britain's busiest, which handles nearly half of all shipping containers) and four airports.

To support this, in the last five years we've improved 244 miles of roads prone to congestion, as well as building and upgrading the existing A-roads to better connect the more rural communities and commerce.

Committed to working with our regional partners

“We will work with you and for you as a partner you can trust and rely on.”

We are passionate about making a positive impact on people's lives, the economy and the country as a whole.

Highways England is committed to working in partnership with Transport East and its forum members.

Now in our fifth year of operation, we are bringing a renewed focus to how we work with our regional and national partners. We know we cannot operate in isolation or assume our work takes precedence over others.

That renewed focus includes a commitment to you for the way we will deliver improvements to the strategic road network:

We're supporting and boosting links between our fastest growing places and business clusters, such as centres of academic excellence and scientific and technological innovation.

So we've been working closely with Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council, Suffolk Police and energy company EDF's consultants to determine the Sizewell C power station construction project's likely impacts on the region's roads.

Due to the population density and high house prices in the south of the country, our region has been identified for housing growth. To get ready for this, we are upgrading road and junction upgrades to increase traffic capacity and flow to and from London; this includes the proposed new Lower Thames Crossing which is Highways England's highest budget project.

Our programme of work

Because our roads are vital to the running of the country, we engineer the future, to keep people moving today and moving better tomorrow. So, with traffic on our roads continuing to grow, our expert projects teams will be building and designing major improvements to our road network where they're most needed, to improve journeys and ensure our roads are ready for the future.

Between now and 2025, we are investing £2.2 billion in the SRN in the East.

Key work includes:

- Concrete roads replacement programme
- A12 Chelmsford to A120 improvements
- A120 improvement scheme, handed over from Essex County Council
- A47 corridor improvement scheme
- Lower Thames Crossing
- Orwell Bridge high winds mitigation
- Operational maintenance and smaller-scale improvements.

Looking to the future

The Department for Transport has also given us a pipeline of an initial 32 projects to develop for potential future delivery. They are funded for some development work during RIS2 (2020-25). We have committed to developing these projects through at least one of our Project Control Framework (PCF) Stages in full. A selection of these schemes will then continue to be developed to a more advanced stage during RP2.

In the East, current RIS3 pipelines schemes are:

- A47/A1101 Elm Road Junction
- A11 Fiveways Junction
- M11 Junction 13 Cambridge West
- A12/A14 Copdock Interchange
- A120 Braintree to A12
- Tilbury Link Road.

Presentation for Transport East

Matt Stafford, East Regional Delivery Director
Chris Griffin, A47 Programme Lead

Investment brings challenges

Maintaining and improving our roads while keeping the region flowing, economy growing. The East has

- 1/10 of UK's population
- 1/12 of the economy
- It's the fourth biggest exporter after London, SE, W Midlands
- Its economy relies on services, manufacturing, pharma, research, innovation
- Energised Coast
- Sizewell C construction

Keeping the region moving, prospering

- We want to work with you to deliver our work alongside yours to keep the region moving and the economy growing
- We have £2.2bn programme to deliver by 2025
 - Concrete road maintenance/replacement
 - A12, A120, A47
 - Orwell Bridge high winds mitigation
 - Operational maintenance and smaller improvements
- Lower Thames Crossing
- We have developed a 'one programme' view of our work. We see you as part of that

Project summaries

Current projects and pipeline for RIS 3

A12, A120 improvements

A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening	A120 improvements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preferred route for junctions 19 to 23 announced October 2019• Preferred route for junctions 23 to 25 announced August 2020• Design and development continues• Public consultation planned 2021• Development Consent Order application planned early 2022• Start of works 2023/24• Open to traffic 2027/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquired from Essex County Council 2020• Review work to date• Verify route recommendations for DfT• Timetable to be confirmed – RIS3 pipeline

A47 corridor improvements

Guyhirn junction	Wansford to Sutton dualling	Thickthorn junction	Blofield to North Burlingham dualling	North Tuddenham to Easton improvements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On schedule for start of works early next year • Design update to be shared before • designed now with minimal impact so DCO not required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of works Q4 2022/3 • New northern route avoids ancient woodland and scheduled monument • DCO application planned 2021 Q1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCO application planned 2021 Q4 • Start of works Q4 2022/3 • Concrete pavement on A11 near Thickthorn to be replaced first • Footbridge relocated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of works Q4 2022/3 – incorporates your views; fits with Norwich Western Bypass • DCO application planned December 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of works Q4 2022/3 – incorporates your views; fits with Norwich Western Bypass • DCO application planned 2021 Q4

Great Yarmouth junction improvements

- Norfolk County Council is commissioned to deliver the traffic model using the work from the Third river crossing, so our design review assesses the full effects of the new bridge
- Discussing whether one junction could be built by/alongside the Third Crossing project

Lower Thames Crossing

- This year we carried out supplementary and design refinement consultations
- DCO application submitted 23 October 2020
- DCO decision from Secretary of State expected in 2022
- Open to traffic planned for 2027/28

RIS3 Pipeline – schemes under consideration

- DfT's third Road Investment Strategy (RIS) will run from 2025 to 2030
- 32 potential schemes nationwide for the RIS3 pipeline, identified with DfT through:
 - strategic studies
 - route strategies
 - stakeholder engagement
- Pipeline Schemes in East region include:
 - A12/A14 Copdock Interchange, Ipswich
 - A11 Fiveways Roundabout
 - A120 Braintree to A12
 - M11 junction 13, Cambridge
 - A47/A1101 Elm Road Junction

THE RIS3 DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

