

A46 Newark Bypass scheme FAQs

The Project

What is Highways England proposing to do on the A46 Newark Bypass Scheme?

The A46 Newark Bypass scheme aims to improve capacity to address traffic congestion on the A46 in the vicinity of Newark-on-Trent and upgrade the only section of single carriageway on the A46 between M1 and Lincoln. Implementation of this scheme will remove the bottleneck at Newark-on-Trent, improve connectivity of Lincolnshire to the national motorway network and enhance route consistency.

Why does the A46 Newark Bypass need to be improved?

In March 2020, the Government's second Road Investment Strategy included a commitment for Highways England to improve the A46 'Trans-Midlands Trade Corridor' between the M5 and the Humber Ports, to create a continuous dual carriageway from Lincoln to Warwick.

The A46 at Newark-on-Trent currently has the worst performance of any section of the A46 between Leicester and Lincoln and congestion issues negatively impact upon the wider Newark area. Despite being a strategic route and local distributor, the bypass section of the A46 between Farndon roundabout and the A1 remains the only single carriageway section of the route (although substantial investment has been made to upgrade the rest of the route between Leicester and Lincoln to dual carriageway).

The improvements to A46 Newark Bypass will;

- **Support economic growth:** The A46 is a nationally significant trade and export route, with ports at either end of the corridor and East Midlands and Birmingham Airports close by. The single greatest gap in this route is the A46 at Newark; an upgraded dual carriageway opened in 2012 but stopped three miles short of the A1. This scheme will fill this gap, creating a consistent connection from the M1 at Leicester to Lincoln, enabling UK, regional and local government's transport and economic growth plans.
- **Improve journey times:** Congestion on this single carriageway section of the A46 means that journeys using this road are unreliable and take longer than they should do. This will only get worse as more people are expected to use the road in the future. Our improvement scheme will remove the bottleneck, meaning people will have quicker and more reliable journeys.
- **Make journeys safer:** From January 2014 to December 2018 accidents on this section of the A46 resulted in 197 casualties. Accidents have a direct impact on those involved and also often lead to lane closures and associated reliability issues. Widening the A46 to dual carriageway will provide opportunities for safer overtaking, and junction improvements will reduce congestion and frustration.
- **Help cyclists and pedestrians:** We will divert existing uncontrolled crossings of the A46 to provide a safer route to cross. As the scheme is developed further, we'll ensure the needs of walkers, cyclists and horse-riders are considered.
- **Improve the environment:** The scheme aims to improve noise levels in up to six Noise Important Areas (noise 'hotspots'). We will work with key stakeholders, including the Local Planning Authority, Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency to develop environmental proposals that protect and enhance the local environment.

How can I find out more about this scheme?

Our options consultation has started, and you can find out how to get involved on our website highwaysengland.co.uk/a46-newark-bypass

What are the options for the scheme?

For the two options we would widen the A46 to a dual carriageway to provide two lanes in each direction between the Farndon and Winthorpe Junctions. Both options would include a new link and a new bridge over the A1 to the north of the existing bridge. We will improve access to the A1 by removing A46 through-traffic from the Brownhills and Friendly Farmer roundabouts, allowing them to operate better.

In Option 1, traffic lights would be added to Cattle Market Junction and the layout changed for the A46 to pass through the centre of the roundabout. This would prioritise A46 through-traffic and reduce delays at this junction. The A617 Kelham Road would be diverted to a new roundabout with the A616 Great North Road to the north of the junction, in order to reduce delays at Cattle Market Junction. Between the new roundabout and Cattle Market Junction, the Great North Road would be widened to provide two lanes in each direction.

In Option 1, the new section of A46 would cross over the A1 to the south of Winthorpe and join back to the existing A46 to the west of Winthorpe Junction. This junction would be enlarged, retaining the four-arms it currently has, with traffic lights also added to improve traffic flow. A new flyover over the A46 would provide access from Friendly Farmer Roundabout and the A1 to the A46 eastbound.

In Option 2, Cattle Market Junction would be a flyover, with the A46 elevated to pass over the roundabout. In this option, Kelham Road and Great North Road would be retained as they are currently.

In Option 2, the new section of A46 would cross over the A1 and run slightly to the north of the existing road, joining back into Winthorpe Junction. The junction would be enlarged to a five-arm roundabout, with traffic lights added to improve traffic flow. This option would move the A46 slightly closer to Winthorpe but would remove the need for the flyover crossing over the A46 (as required in Option 1).

Traffic lights would be added to Farndon Junction in Option 2 to improve flows on the roundabout during peak hours. The general layout of the junction would not be changed.

You can view a video of the options and the maps on our website highwaysengland.co.uk/a46-newark-bypass

Have you considered other options?

In developing this scheme, we considered several different options before shortlisting to these two. These discounted options are outlined on our website and in our consultation brochure.

Benefits of the scheme

How will this improve traffic flow?

Congestion on this single carriageway section of the A46 means that journeys on this road are unreliable and take longer than they should do. Our improvement scheme will increase capacity and remove the bottleneck, meaning traffic will flow better and people will have quicker and more reliable journeys.

How will this benefit local communities?

The scheme is expected to boost business productivity and economic growth by providing a more reliable road network and improved local access. The scheme will also reduce delays and incidents and improve resilience on the network.

Environment

How have you considered the environmental impacts?

We have assessed the potential direct and indirect impacts of the project on the existing environment during construction and once the road is open to traffic, in accordance with current Environmental Impact Assessment regulations and guidance. This assessment has informed the option assessment and the environmental design and mitigation, and opportunities for improvements.

Consultation

Why are you holding this consultation during a pandemic? Couldn't you postpone it?

Given the need for improvements at the A46 around Newark-on-Trent and our commitment to the Government, we want to avoid any delay in delivering this upgrade. We have carefully considered the risks of consulting at this time and how best to mitigate these. We are confident that our approach to consultation, including online and by telephone, still follows best practice. Our aim is still to provide the local community and stakeholders with a meaningful opportunity to influence the scheme. More information on the consultation process can be found in our "Approach to Public Consultation" document available on our scheme webpage: highwaysengland.co.uk/a46-newark-bypass

Why aren't you holding public events and how can I speak to the project team?

Due to the restrictions in place as part of the government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, we will not be holding face-to-face public consultation events as we would normally. We are instead providing alternative ways for people to get in touch with us and make an informed response to the consultation. You can request a call back from a member of the project team by calling 0300 123 5000 and leaving details of your query, alternatively you can email the project team on A46NewarkBypass@highwaysengland.co.uk. We will then arrange to call you to discuss at a mutually convenient time.

Next steps

When will a decision be made?

Once the consultation has closed, we'll analyse all responses and compile them into a consultation report summarising the feedback received. We will then refine the option designs, incorporating the comments received where possible and complete our assessment work. We will then announce the preferred route option for the scheme in summer 2021.

For more information about this scheme, please contact Highways England:

Email a46newarkbypass@highwaysengland.co.uk

Telephone 0300 123 5000

Website highwaysengland.co.uk/a46-newark-bypass