



A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements scheme Needs Case

Why We Need This Scheme

We want to make sure all our major roads are more dependable, durable and most importantly safe. That's why we're delivering £15 billion of investment on our national network – the largest investment in a generation. The A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements scheme is part of this programme.

The A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet Junctions are adjacent grade-separated Junctions on the A2 trunk road in north Kent, approximately 2km apart. The Bean Junction connects the A296 and B255, which provides access to the Bluewater regional shopping centre, to the A2. The Ebbsfleet Junction connects the A2 to the A2260 and B259 Southfleet Road. Ebbsfleet Junction was constructed in 2005 to serve the Ebbsfleet International Rail Station and the surrounding Ebbsfleet Valley and Eastern Quarry developments. Although this junction is not currently heavily trafficked, it is expected that traffic flows will increase considerably as the adjacent developments proceed.

The Kent Thameside area is predicted to see significant growth in the future. Around 15,000 homes and 30,000 jobs are expected to be created by the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation. Additional growth is underway in the Dartford area, with over 4,000 homes being built and planning permission for another 3,915 homes.

Traffic modelling shows that both junctions need improving. Without the scheme the following congestion is predicted:

- Bean junction (including A296): traffic is forecast to increase by 50-60% during weekday and weekend peak periods by 2037 compared with 2014 traffic levels.
- Ebbsfleet junction: traffic is forecast to increase by 170 – 200% during weekday peak periods by 2037 compared with 2014 traffic levels.

This scheme will provide additional capacity at each junction to smooth traffic flow, improve journey times and increase safety, which is great news for the local and regional economy. Without improvements to these junctions, significant future traffic congestion will have an adverse impact on the A2 and will constrain economic development and housing growth in the area.

Detailed traffic analysis is included in the Technical Appraisal Report 2017 (Section 7.2) a hard copy of this document is at the Deposit Locations and the Exhibition events or in the Consultation 2017 section of the website: www.highways.gov.uk/a2be