A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements
Statutory Public Consultation
Have your say

21 February to 4 April 2018
Investing in your roads

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 scheme will provide additional capacity at each junction to smooth traffic flow, improve journey times and increase safety, as well as support the level of development planned for the local area which is great news for the local and regional economy.

In this brochure we explain our proposals for the A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements scheme. We also give details of how you can give us your feedback during this second and statutory public consultation.

How to respond

The consultation about our proposals will help to inform the development of the scheme. Your comments will help us better understand the local area and any potential impacts our scheme may have on the community.

The consultation will run for six weeks from 21 February to 4 April 2018, and there are lots of ways you can tell us what you think.

Please respond by 11.45pm on 4 April 2018 using one of the following methods

- Complete the consultation questionnaire online at www.highways.gov.uk/a2be
- Attend a public consultation event and complete a questionnaire
- Complete the questionnaire included with this brochure and send to us Freepost A2BE public consultation

Public consultation exhibitions

One of the best ways to find out more about our proposals and have your say is to come to one of our public consultation exhibitions. Please come along and you will be able to find out more about the proposals and speak to members of the project team who will be happy to answer your questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 21 February</td>
<td>Heritage Community Hall, Craylands Lane, Swanscombe, DA10 0LP</td>
<td>2pm – 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 24 February</td>
<td>Bean Youth and Community Centre, High St, Bean, DA2 8AS</td>
<td>10am – 3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 3 March</td>
<td>Bluewater Shopping Centre, Dartford, DA9 9ST</td>
<td>9am – 9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 10 March</td>
<td>Eastgate, Springhead Parkway, Northfleet, DA11 8AD</td>
<td>10am – 3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 15 March</td>
<td>Ebbsfleet International Station, Dartford, DA10 1EB</td>
<td>7am – 9am / 3pm – 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 17 March</td>
<td>Stone Pavilion, Hayes Road, Stone, DA9 9DS</td>
<td>10am – 2pm</td>
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Highways England is the government company responsible for operating, maintaining and improving England’s major A roads and motorways. We strive to improve our major roads and motorways - engineering the future to keep people moving today and moving better tomorrow.
Introduction

We are proposing to improve the A2 junctions at Bean and Ebbsfleet. The improvements are committed within the Government's road investment strategy and are considered necessary to support the level of development proposed for this region.

Why Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions need improving

A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions are on the A2 in north Kent, roughly 1.2 miles apart. 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.

- Bean junction connects the A2 to the A296 and B255, giving access to Bluewater shopping centre and the wider area.
- Ebbsfleet junction serves Ebbsfleet International Railway Station and the wider area, connecting the A2 to the A2260. It will also provide access to the new and ongoing developments.

Local developments

The junctions will serve new housing developments and employment in the local area.

- The Ebbsfleet Development Corporation was established by the Department of Communities and Local Government in April 2015 to drive delivery of a new Garden City in Ebbsfleet, North Kent. The corporation's boundary covers an area of 1,026 hectares and new communities have already formed. The Ebbsfleet Development Corporation is the planning authority for the area. The corporation is tasked to deliver up to 15,000 new homes and 30,000 jobs are expected to be created. Improvement to the A2 junctions is a key deliverable for the EDC as more new homes are built.
- Additional growth in Dartford is also underway. 3,435 homes have been built in the last five years and a further 680 are under construction. Planning consent has been granted for up to 3,915 more homes (April 2017). Bean junction which is north of the A2 and east of Dartford town centre will give access to much of this housing.
- Additional growth in Gravesham is also underway. The Local Plan proposed the development of 6,170 homes between 2011 and 2028, along with the creation of a considerable number of jobs.

Preventing congestion

Traffic modelling shows that both junctions need improving. If this does not occur the road network will become more highly congested causing considerable delays and associated environmental issues. 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.

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The scheme we are consulting on

Scheme details: Bean junction

The existing layout is retained with the current roundabouts enlarged and controlled by traffic lights. There will be a new bridge over the A2 for southbound traffic (situated to the east of the existing Bean Lane overbridge, which will be retained for northbound traffic) and a new slip road on to the A2 for eastbound traffic.
The scheme we are consulting on

Scheme details: Ebbsfleet junction

The proposals broadly follow the existing road layout with enlarged roundabouts controlled by traffic lights. The road between the roundabouts is widened to a dual carriageway. The slip roads from the A2 are retained and the slip roads to the A2 are widened.
How the scheme is evolving

Since we announced the preferred route in August last year, the scheme is continuing to evolve.

We would like your feedback about the scheme in general, and specifically about slip roads, gantries, and pedestrian and cycling routes and the details of these are below. Please read this section before completing pages 3-5 of the questionnaire.

Slip roads

Bean junction

As a direct result of the feedback we received during the first consultation, we have been reviewing whether we can keep the B255/A296 slip road open. We are currently undertaking further assessments to find out what impact this has on the rest of the road network. We would like your feedback on the options shown below as this will help inform our final scheme layout. (See page 3 in the questionnaire).

Option: Slip road open
Advantages
- Easier to leave Bluewater
- Easier to access A2
- Emergency vehicles can easily access hospital via A296 westbound
- No land take will be required

Disadvantages
- Possible conflict with lorries parked each side of the road
- A296 is a very busy road

Option: Slip road closed
Advantages
- Encourages traffic to use the A2
- New southbound bridge reduces queues
- No land take will be required

Disadvantages
- Four lanes reduced to two lanes on exit from Bluewater
- Drivers must use southern Bean roundabout to get to A2 or double back to A296
- Emergency vehicles cannot easily access hospital via A296

Ebbsfleet junction

We are looking to see if we can combine the slip road accesses to Hall Road and the A2. This would reduce the environmental impact and the number of exits at this junction. We would like your feedback on the options shown below. This will help inform our design work. (See page 4 in the questionnaire).

Option: Single combined slip road
Advantages
- Drivers can change onto the other slip road
- Reduces land take in the area
- May reduce environmental impact on archaeology

Disadvantages
- Traffic could weave on the slip road
- May not cope well with high traffic flow
- Does not provide resilience for the road network

Gantries

We are reviewing the location of gantries (overhead signs) as some of them will be moved to accommodate changes to the slip roads. This will also help to manage future traffic flows using new technology. We welcome your feedback on the gantry positions shown on the plans. (See page 5 in the questionnaire).

Pedestrian and cycling routes

Options are being considered for pedestrian, cycling and equestrian routes. We are in discussion with Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, Dartford Borough Council, Gravesham Borough Council and Kent County Council to ensure our ideas are joined up and we provide the right routes. We would like to hear your views about the journeys you usually take as a pedestrian or cyclist. (See page 5 in the questionnaire).
Other important aspects we are working on are as follows.

**Development Consent Order Boundary**

We have established a boundary which shows the limit of all proposed land for both permanent and temporary works for which we are seeking Development Consent. This covers the following areas:

- The proposed highway works, signage and overhead gantries
- The areas that may be needed during construction for the site compound, materials storage and safe working access
- The areas for environmental mitigation such as landscape planting and drainage.

We will continue to review this during the next phase of the design development.

**Environment**

We have considered your feedback from the first consultation and are working with statutory consultees to enhance our knowledge about environmental considerations in this area. More details below:

**Biodiversity**

Surveys have been ongoing since 2014 and will continue this year. So far we have found evidence of hazel dormouse, reptiles, badgers, bats and notable plant species.

This data helps us understand the distribution of notable/protected habitats and species and identify where protection and mitigation is required.

We have been developing the proposed design to ensure there will be no direct impact on ancient woodland at Darenth Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or The Thrift. We are working to avoid impacting on ancient woodland at Bean Triangle.

**Archaeology**

We recognise there are cultural heritage assets nearby such as those associated with the Springhead Roman settlement. We are working closely with statutory environmental bodies with a view to avoiding significant impacts at these sites. This includes Kent County Council’s Heritage Conservation Team (KHCT) and Historic England, to develop our plans for archaeological investigations in the area.

**Landscape**

We are proposing to have an extensive area of new native woodland and species rich grassland to the south of the A2 in the area of the Bean southern roundabout and slip roads.

It is intended to replace the highway planting removed during construction and help to screen views of the scheme in the longer term from nearby residents on the northern edge of Bean and some of the properties at Hope Cottages. We also plan to retain the public right of way that crosses this area, connecting Bean Lane and The Thrift.

**Embankments**

Retaining walls and embankments will be required for the scheme. We are working to understand where these structures will be required. Investigations into ground conditions are planned for later in the year which will help inform these elements of the design.

**Noise and air quality**

Since the preferred route announcement in August 2017 we have been working on the design to minimise the detrimental effects of air quality and noise.

An example is at the southern roundabout at Bean Junction which we are proposing to relocate by 20 metres to the east which will reduce the impacts on some of the residents of Hope Cottages. (See diagram below.)
### Scheme funding and delivery

The proposed scheme is being delivered by Highways England. It is funded by the Department for Transport with Section 106 contributions provided via the Kent Thameside Strategic Transport Programme and the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation.

The Kent Thameside Strategic Transport Programme consists of a number of improvement schemes (including this scheme) that will be delivered as developer contributions coming forward to Gravesend Borough Council, Dartford Borough Council and the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation. The programme is administered by Kent County Council.

### Relationship to other local projects

#### Lower Thames Crossing

Highways England’s Lower Thames Crossing project is a separate proposal to the Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements. However, the teams are working closely together. The Preferred Route Announcement was made on 12 April 2017. The planned route will run from the M25 near North Ockendon, cross the A13 at Orsett before crossing under the River Thames east of Tilbury and Gravesend. A new link road will then take traffic to the A2 near Shorne, close to where the route becomes the M2. The improvements at Bean and Ebbsfleet are designed to be compatible with this route.

#### London Resort

London Resort Company Holdings is developing a theme park at Swanscombe Peninsula. This is a privately-funded scheme which will be supported by transport infrastructure including improvements to the Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions. These improvements are separate from the current proposals being consulted on by Highways England.

### Where can I find documents relating to this statutory public consultation?

The following documents which support our consultation are online at: www.highways.gov.uk/a2be

- Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
- Consultation brochure and questionnaire
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)
- Scheme Assessment Report
- Technical Assessment Report

They are also available to view free of charge during the consultation period at the inspection locations listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dartford Borough Council</td>
<td>Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, DA1 1DR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council</td>
<td>The Groves, Swanscombe, DA10 0GA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How will you use my response?

All views and comments received help us to:

- Make sure potential impacts on the community and environment have been fully considered
- Ensure the final scheme design is updated with all relevant responses where applicable
- Ensure the final environmental statement considers impacts or mitigations resulting from the consultation process
- Record how we have considered feedback to develop the scheme further within the consultation report.

All responses will be analysed by Highways England or our consultants. Your details will only be used in connection with the A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements consultation process and will not be passed to any other third parties. We cannot respond individually to every comment, but we will take them all into consideration.

What happens after this public consultation?

This scheme is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project which requires a Development Consent Order. We will make an application to the independent Planning Inspectorate. Our application will include a Consultation Report, which explains how we have had regard to consultation responses, and an Environmental Statement. After examining our Development Consent Order application, the Planning Inspectorate will present a report to the government. We will only be able to construct the scheme and compulsorily acquire land if the government approves our Development Consent Order.

For more information about the process for proposed major infrastructure projects visit the Planning Inspectorate’s website http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk or call 0303 4445000.

A video explaining the DCO process is also available online at https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/

Scheme milestones

- Autumn 2018: We submit a planning application (the Development Consent Order) to the Planning Inspectorate, which includes the report on the findings from this consultation
- 2018-2019: The Planning Inspectorate will evaluate the scheme
- 2019: The Planning Inspectorate will make a recommendation to the Government, which will decide whether to give the scheme consent
- 2020: If planning consent is granted then construction starts
- 2022/23: Scheme opens for traffic

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call 0300 123 5000 and we will help you.
Contact us

Please use the following methods to contact us or to respond to the public consultation:

- Complete the consultation questionnaire online at www.highways.gov.uk/a2be

You can also:

- Attend a public consultation event and complete a questionnaire
- Complete the questionnaire included with this brochure and send to us at: Freepost A2BE public consultation
- Email A2BeanandEbbsfleetJunctionsImprovements@highwaysengland.co.uk
- Call 0300 123 5000 (24 hours).