

M25 junction 28 improvement scheme

Have your say



14 November 2016 – 6 January 2017



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Have your say

About us

Highways England is the government company charged with operating, maintaining and improving England's motorways and major A roads. Formerly the Highways Agency, we became a government company in April 2015.

Have your say

We want your views about plans to improve junction 28 on the M25. Inside this brochure, we've set out options for improvements with a budget of £50 million to £100 million.

Please tell us what you think about these plans by filling in the questionnaire included with this brochure.

The public consultation starts on 14 November 2016 and finishes on 6 January 2017.

For full details please visit
www.highways.gov.uk/m25j28

 Inside this brochure you will find:

The background of the scheme

- The need for improvements at junction 28
- Scheme objectives
- Environmental considerations
- 'The Government's Road Investment Strategy 2015-2020'.

Options we are considering

- Option 5B – single lane loop road, widening of existing M25 bridge over junction 28
- Option 5C – single lane loop road, widening of short section of M25
- Option 5F – 2 lane loop road, widening of short section of M25, reconfiguration of A12
- Benefits and effects at a glance (an overview of all three options).

Have your say about our proposals

- Details of public consultation exhibitions
- Brochure and questionnaire collection points
- Complete a questionnaire (online or in this booklet)
- Contact us (back page)

Following the public consultation

- How we'll use your response
- What happens next?

The need for improvements at junction 28

Junction 28 plays a vital role connecting the M25 with the A12, as well as providing local access to Brentwood via the A1023 (Brook Street).

It's a heavily used junction which features a roundabout mainly controlled by traffic lights. Up to 7,500 vehicles per hour currently travel through the roundabout at peak times. It is already operating at capacity, motorists regularly experience congestion and delays.

Our research shows that traffic in the area is expected to increase by up to 30% by 2037, with more than 9,000 vehicles per hour travelling through the roundabout at peak times.

Without intervention, there will be further deterioration in traffic conditions:

- Delays will be at least 5 times greater
- Average speeds will be reduced by 25%

The roundabout also caters for traffic accessing Brentwood via the A1023 (Brook Street). Although this scheme is not directly focused on Brook Street, our proposed improvements to junction 28 will deliver some benefits for customers using the A1023.

The A1023 (Brook Street) arm of the roundabout is the only one not controlled by traffic lights. After leaving the roundabout, motorists pass through traffic lights at the Nags Head Lane and Mascalls Lane junctions. During peak times, these junctions operate over capacity and queues of traffic regularly develop along Brook Street and often back on to the roundabout. These queues can also lead further back on to the M25 north and A12 east entry and exit roads.

In recent years, there have also been a number of incidents at junction 28, which create delays and congestion along the M25, A12 and local roads.



If we don't improve junction 28 by 2037, we can expect:

- **Increased congestion and lengthy queues, at least 5 times worse than at present**
- **A 25% reduction in average speeds through the junction (excluding mainline M25 and A12)**
- **Widespread disruption following incidents**
- **Constraints on future development and growth opportunities**
- **Local air quality issues to deteriorate further.**

Scheme objectives

- Increase capacity and reduce congestion and delays by providing an improved link from M25 to A12
- Reduce the incident rate and resulting disruption by increasing the capacity of the roundabout
- Improve safety on the roundabout by reducing traffic levels and redesigning the existing layout
- Cater for future traffic demands to enable development and economic growth
- Minimise the impact on local air quality and noise by smoothing traffic flow
- Protect access for non-motorised users (pedestrians and cyclists) and improve conditions wherever possible.

Environmental considerations

Junction 28 is in an air quality management area. There are also a number of noise important areas nearby, where residents experience high noise levels from traffic.

Vicarage Wood and Lower Vicarage Wood are both designated as Ancient Woodland. There are several local wildlife sites to the north and east, including sites in the Ingrebourne Valley.

There is a Grade II Listed Building, The Nags Head Inn, just to the east of the junction on Brook Street, and two Registered Park and Gardens – at Warley Place to the south and Weald Park to the north.

The proposed junction 28 improvements aim to reduce the amount of traffic travelling through the roundabout and will subsequently reduce noise and airborne emissions in that area. Appropriate measures will be considered to lessen any impact on noise and air quality, for example by using earth mounds, planting, environmental barriers and low noise surfacing.

The area surrounding the junction is agricultural land and there is a former landfill site immediately to the north-east.

The Ingrebourne River and the Weald Brook run alongside this section of the A12. We may need to realign these watercourses to accommodate supporting structures for the new loop road.



The Government's Road Investment Strategy 2015/20

Largest investment in a generation

In 2014, the government released its Road Investment Strategy, announcing £15 billion to invest in England's strategic road network between 2015 and 2020. The funding will be used to increase the capacity and condition of the network in key areas, including the M25.

The south east will benefit from £2.2 billion of road investment over the next 5 years, with a number of major improvement projects planned by 2020. The aim for the south east is to:

- Ease congestion on 932 miles of strategic road network in the region – 24 major improvements to start by 2020
- Help reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on the network by 40%
- Tackle noise in specific areas and mitigate/improve the environment
- Effectively deliver 120 miles of extra lanes for the south east
- Support regional growth
- Improve the customer experience.

Junction 28 on the M25 is one of the major improvement projects planned within the south east and will provide better access towards Essex and London, as well as connecting Brentwood, Chelmsford, Colchester and Suffolk with London and other key destinations.

Construction is due to begin by March 2020.

Options we are considering

We are consulting on 3 options. All options will divert traffic away from the roundabout, with a new dedicated loop road between the M25 and the A12, but each option requires a different approach to achieve this.

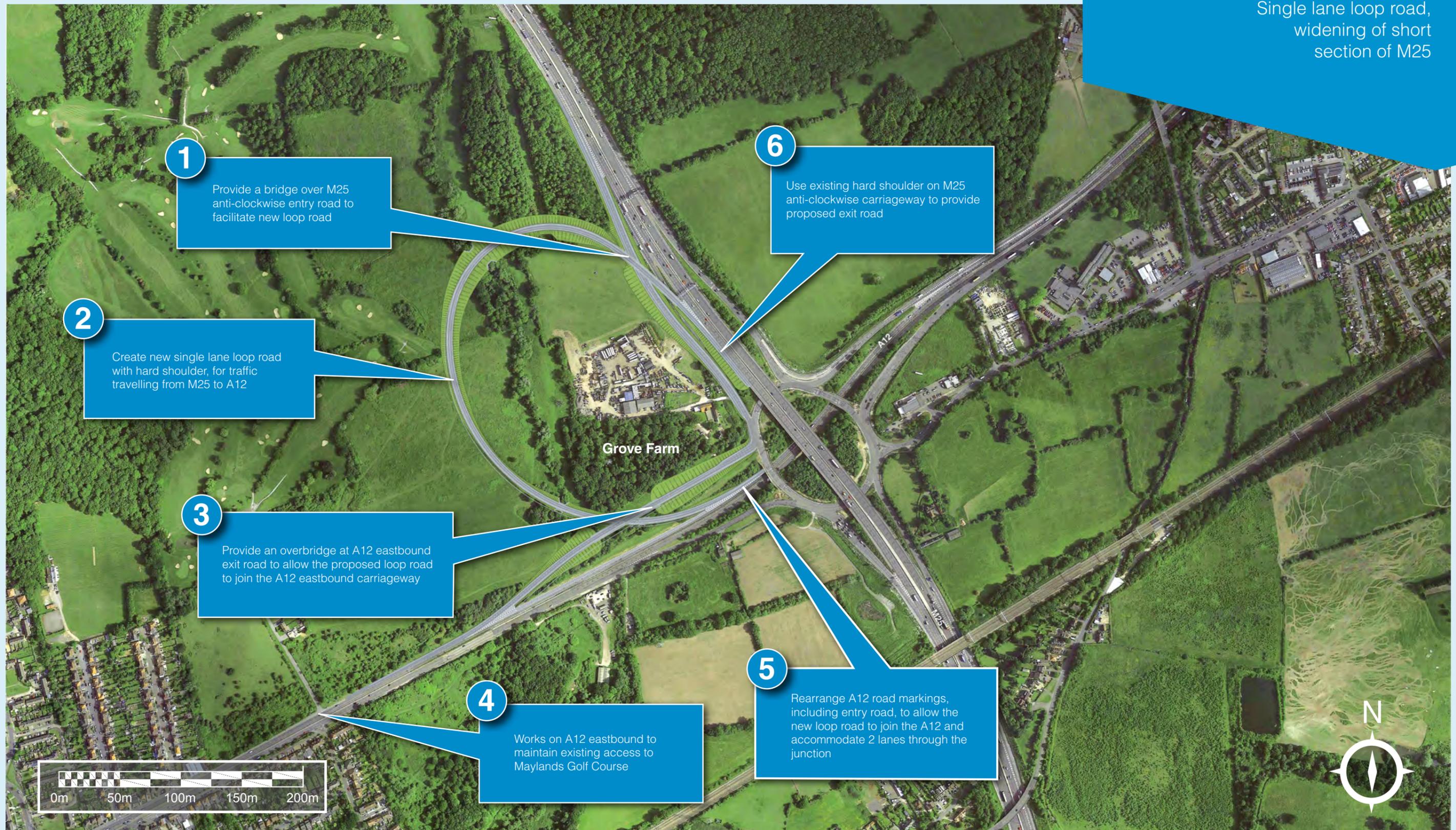
Option 5B

Single lane loop road, widening of existing M25 bridge over junction 28



Option 5C

Single lane loop road,
widening of short
section of M25



Option 5F

2 lane loop road, widening of short section of M25, reconfiguration of A12



The benefits and effects at a glance

At this stage we have identified the likely potential benefits and effects, but ongoing investigations and design work will allow us to set out our mitigation measures.

Criteria	Option 5B Single lane loop road, widening of existing M25 bridge over junction 28	Option 5C Single lane loop road, widening of short section of M25	Option 5F 2 lane loop road, widening of short section of M25, reconfiguration of A12
Noise	People that live and work around the new loop road will potentially experience an increase in noise levels, but these will be mitigated through the design process where possible.		
Air quality	With the scheme in place, traffic will use the new loop road, rather than the exit road off the M25 northbound and the entry road onto the A12 eastbound. This could lead to a potential reduction in air pollution levels at properties near these slip roads, but an increase in air pollution levels at properties near the new loop road, so we would investigate measures to lessen the impact here. In addition, traffic using the roundabout should be able to move more freely, which should reduce the number of stationary vehicles and lead to an improvement in air quality		
Landscape	People that live and work in nearby areas are likely to see changes to the views of the local landscape. Any potential impacts will be mitigated, for example through tree planting.		
Heritage and historic environment	No effects anticipated on designated heritage assets, but there is potential for impact on buried archaeology and suitable investigations will take place.		
Nature conservation	There is potential for the scheme to affect habitats and protected species (such as great crested newts and dormouse) within the Ingrebourne Valley Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. We aim to avoid areas of ecological importance, but where this is not possible we work to minimise any habitat loss by replacing or enhancing it.		
Water environment and drainage	The scheme has the potential to impact on the Weald Brook, River Ingrebourne and the streams that feed into them. These will be mitigated throughout the design process.		
Benefits for customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increase capacity and reduce congestion and delays by providing an improved link from M25 to A12 ■ Reduce the incident rate and resulting disruption by increasing the capacity of the roundabout ■ Improve safety on the roundabout by reducing traffic levels and redesigning the existing layout ■ Cater for future traffic demands to enable development and economic growth ■ Minimise the impact on local air quality and noise by smoothing traffic flow ■ Protect access for non-motorised users (pedestrians and cyclists) and improve conditions wherever possible. 		
People and communities	During construction, any effect on people's access between communities is expected to be minimal with all existing routes maintained. Some minor alterations to the access of Maylands Golf Course may be required. There may also be loss of some private land.		
Approximate construction duration	27 months	27 months	27 months
Estimated project costs (millions)	£61.3m	£72m	£79.8m
BCRs (benefit to cost ratio)	3.5	4.8	4.5
Value for money	High	High	High
Average expected improvement in journey time through junction 28	AM peak 1 mins 5 secs PM peak 2 mins 20 secs Off-peak 0 mins 10 secs	1 mins 5 secs 2 mins 25 secs 0 mins 10 secs	1 mins 5 secs 2 mins 25 secs 0 mins 10 secs

Your views are important

We want to hear your views about the options we are considering. You can find out more and speak to members of the project team at the public consultation exhibitions (information below). We also want to know if you think there are other possible alternatives based on your knowledge of the area.

Although there will be other opportunities to comment and influence the proposals as they progress, this 8 week consultation period provides a key opportunity for you to have your say on the future direction of the scheme. We will review and consider all comments received.

Details of public consultation exhibitions

You can find out more about the options by attending one of our public consultation exhibitions. Our team of experts will be on hand to answer your questions and you can view 3D visualisations of each option.

Date	Location	Time	Address
Thursday 17 November	Harold Hill Community Centre	2:30pm – 6:00pm	Gooshays Drive, Harold Hill, Romford RM3 9LB
Friday 18 November	Harold Hill Community Centre	10:00am – 4:00pm	Gooshays Drive, Harold Hill, Romford RM3 9LB
Friday 9 December	South Weald Parish Hall	2:00pm – 8:00pm	85 London Road, Brentwood CM14 4NP
Thursday 15 December	Harold Wood Neighbourhood Centre	10:00am – 4:00pm	The Old School, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood, Romford RM3 0QA
Wednesday 4 January	Holiday Inn	6:30pm – 10:00pm	Brook Street, Brentwood CM14 5NF
Thursday 5 January	Holiday Inn	11:00am – 9:00pm	Brook Street, Brentwood CM14 5NF

Brochure and questionnaire collection points

You can collect brochures and questionnaires from a number of community locations. Please contact each location directly for their opening hours.

Location	Address
Central Romford Library	St Edmunds Way, Romford RM1 3AR
Brentwood Library	New Road, Brentwood CM14 4BP
Shenfield Library	Hutton Road, Shenfield, Brentwood CM15 8NJ

Complete a questionnaire

- Online at www.highways.gov.uk/m25j28
- As a hard copy in this brochure, simply complete and return to us at
 - one of our public consultation exhibitions
 - FREEPOST M25 junction 28 improvement scheme
- You can get in touch via the contact details on the back page.

Following the public consultation, we will:

- make sure potential impacts on the community and environment have been fully considered
- ensure the final scheme design considers all relevant responses where applicable
- ensure the final environmental statement takes into account impacts and mitigation measures you have told us about
- record how we have considered feedback to develop the scheme further within our consultation report.

What's happening next?

Views and comments received during the consultation will be considered and summarised in our public consultation report.

Another opportunity to have your say

When the detailed designs are complete, there will be a second public consultation and you will have another opportunity to give your views and influence the development of the designs. We will let you know more about this nearer the time.

Development Consent Order

After the second consultation, we will apply for a Development Consent Order. This will be examined by the independent Planning Inspectorate, who will ask for representations from interested parties. This provides a third opportunity to have your say.

Scheme milestones

The preferred route is announced by Minister for Roads	2017 (dates to be confirmed)
The preferred route is designed in more detail	2017 (dates to be confirmed)
Full public consultation on the preferred route	2017 (dates to be confirmed)
An application is sent to Planning Inspectorate	2017/2018 (dates to be confirmed)
Start of work (if planning consent is granted)	2020
Work complete and open for traffic	2022-2023 (depending on which option is selected)

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

Contact us

If you have any queries relating to the M25 junction 28 improvement scheme please contact us at **info@highwaysengland.co.uk**

For the latest information and updates, please visit our website **www.highways.gov.uk/m25j28**

If you have any queries relating to Highways England, you should contact our customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000 or alternatively email **info@highwaysengland.co.uk**

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This document is also available on our website at **www.gov.uk/highways**

If you have any enquiries about this publication email **info@highwaysengland.co.uk** or call **0300 123 5000***. Please quote the Highways England publications code **PR120/16**.

Highways England Creative S160409

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Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ
Highways England Company Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363