



Season's Greetings
and Best Wishes
for 2021



Welcome

I am delighted to bring you this newsletter to provide you with an update and information on the A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme.

New Year

A new year is always a good chance to look back over the past year and look forward to what lies ahead in 2021. In 2020, Covid 19 has brought about many challenges for us all. This has been true for all of us working on the A12 project, but we have risen to the challenge. We have been able to make our preferred route announcement, deliver a substantial survey programme and scale up the design team.

Virtual Events

We have had to move all our discussions with stakeholders to virtual events, and while we have missed meeting you all in person, we have been excited about using the technology at our disposal to take stakeholders and interested parties through what the proposed design will look like.

Design

At Highways England, we believe that the developing design for the A12 is the right one to make it more reliable, safer, trouble free and modern. We value every view to ensure we capture all feedback.

A12

We all know that the A12 road struggles to cope with existing peak traffic levels, resulting in delays and reduced speeds. There are few available diversions to use and accidents lead to traffic disruption over a wide area.

The projected growth in population and local development in the area will only increase the pressures on this important commuter route, which supports the national and regional economies by connecting Felixstowe and Harwich ports to London. The proposed widening scheme would help deal with all these issues.

The Colchester Braintree Borders Garden Community is now completely off the table and this has been taken into account as our planning and design work continues apace.

Meeting Stakeholders

Over the last three months, we have been finding out what stakeholders would like from the proposed road design.

We have held 25 workshops with stakeholders – from local planning authorities, county councils, parish councils, businesses, neighbouring councils, road users and other customer groups and local communities.

We are working our way through design fixes which we are discussing with all our stakeholders before we go to statutory consultation in early summer next year. These sessions allow us to gain valuable feedback and views, following our consultations in 2017 and last year.

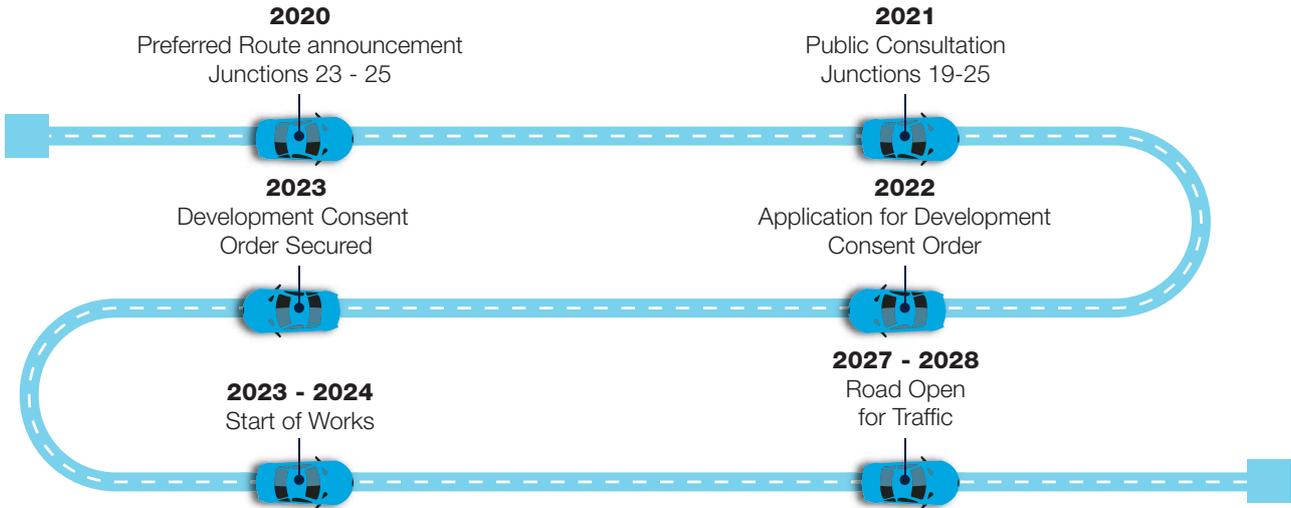
Partnership

We are now working in partnership with Costain and Jacobs and there are over 300 people working hard on the project and we all look forward to working with our stakeholders and residents as we move to the next stage of the scheme.



Steve Elderkin,
Project Director
A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening

A12 SCHEME TIMELINE 2020-2028



Junctions 20a and 20b
Junctions 20a and 20b will be removed and replaced with a new junction 21 to the east of Hatfield Peverel. Our proposals provide access from Hatfield Peverel to the new junction 21. We continue to work with key stakeholders such as Essex County Council.

Junction 21
Our new junction 21 will become a roundabout serving traffic in all directions and replace the existing junction 21 as well as the existing junctions 20a and 20b. Our proposals provide access for Hatfield Peverel and Witham. The specific arrangements will be subject to continued work with key stakeholders such as Essex County Council.

Junction 19
The improvements for junction 19 continue to be reviewed in collaboration with Essex County Council, Chelmsford City Council and other stakeholders.

Junction 22
Our new Junction 22 will become a dumbbell roundabout arrangement serving traffic in all directions. Our proposals provide access to Rivenhall and Kelvedon via the existing A12. Our proposals also provide access for Witham and Little Braxted. The specific arrangements will be subject to continued work with key stakeholders such as Essex County Council.

Benefits of the A12 widening on completion

- ✓ The route will be safer and journey times more reliable, and there will be less disruption caused by conditions.
- ✓ Many local roads will benefit from lighter traffic. Instead, traffic will be on the A12 where it belongs.
- ✓ There will be safer routes between communities for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, and improved safety and access for public transport users.
- ✓ The route will support economic growth by bringing people and businesses closer together and by creating job opportunities.
- ✓ The route will support long-term sustainable growth through reliable and improved journey times.

Junction 23
We are considering whether we can remove junction 23, but with improved access roads provided from Kelvedon to junction 22 and junction 24. The Government's Road Investment Strategy 2 (RIS2) stated that the A12 scheme will need to take into account the evolving proposals for the A120 Braintree to A12 improvements. We are working closely with the A120 team to collectively develop the best combined solution.

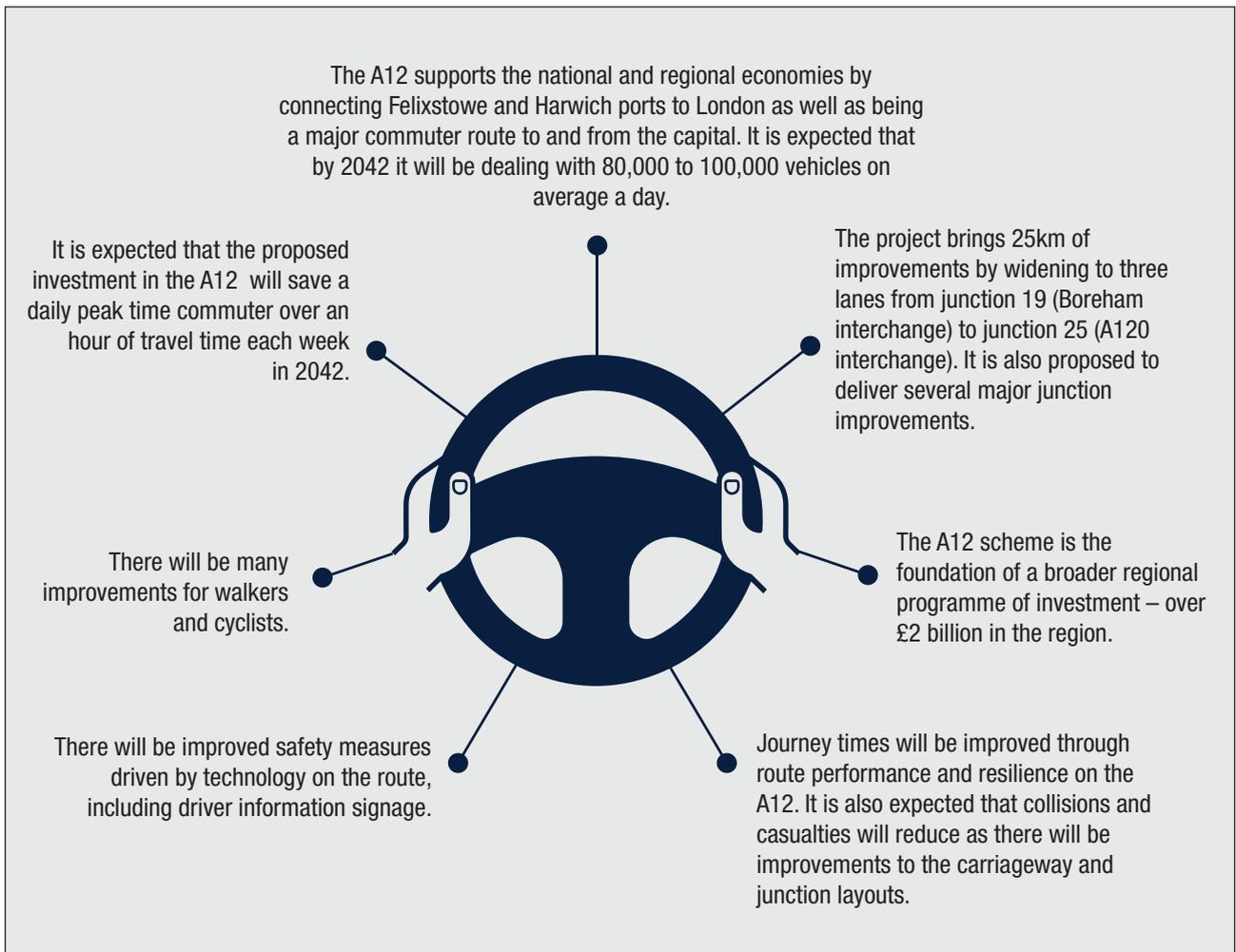
Junction 24
Our new Junction 24 will become a dumbbell roundabout arrangement serving traffic in all directions. Our proposals provide access to the improved A12 from Inworth Road which will serve the communities of Kelvedon, Inworth, Tiptree and others. The specific arrangements will be subject to continued work with key stakeholders such as Essex County Council.

Junction 25
Before the existing junction 25, we will connect back to the current A12. At this connection point, we propose to create new slip roads and a roundabout. Alongside this, we will modify and improve the existing junction. It will remain as a roundabout, serving traffic in all directions. Our proposals provide access to Marks Tey, Copford and the A120, and provide a connection to the existing A12. The specific arrangements will be subject to continued work with key stakeholders such as Essex County Council.

Local communities asked for changes and we delivered

You said	We did	You said	We did
Provide a bypass at Rivenhall	✓	Improve slips roads at junction 22	✓
Provide a bypass between junctions 24 and 25	✓	Provide an all-movements junction 24, serving traffic in all directions	✓
Merge junctions 20a and 20b	✓	Improve slip roads for junction 24	✓
Reduce traffic on The Street in Hatfield Peverel	✓	Reduce traffic on Kelvedon High Street	✓
Address private access issue on J20a and 20b	✓	Connect junction to Inworth Road	✓
Provide an all-movements junction 21, serving traffic in all directions	✓	Improve road user safety, particularly within the junction for cyclists and pedestrians at junction 25	✓
Make junction 21 more suitable for industrial vehicles	✓	Make changes to help to reduce some severance at existing junction 25	✓
Address visibility issues at junction 22	✓	Improve access for cyclists and walkers to Marks Tey	✓

A12 KEY FACTS



Key Points for walking, cycling and horseriding



Five major A12 junctions with side roads



Three existing junctions to be removed



One national cycle route crosses at junction 22



One regional cycle route crosses south of junction 20a (not directly impacted by scheme)



One local cycle route (Chelmsford to Boreham) crosses at junction 19



The scheme crosses or impacts nearly forty existing Public Rights of Ways



Journeys on the existing walking and cycling routes alongside junctions 22-23 and 24-25 would be affected by far lower traffic flows



In 2020

- We announced a preferred route for junctions 23 to 25
- We now have a preferred route for the full scheme (junctions 19 to 25)
- We entered into a regional development partnership with Costain/Jacobs
- We held 25 workshops with Essex County Council, Local Planning Authorities, Parish Councils, road users, businesses and other customer groups
- We now have 300 people on the project team
- We carried out a Junction Refinement Strategy for junction proposals, along with two design fixes since the start of our partnership with Costain and Jacobs
- Ground Investigation has been completed at 520 locations and drainage inspections taken place across 84km
- More than 630 Hectares have been surveyed to identify areas of potential archaeological interest
- We have looked at walking, cycling and horse riding issues and how they could be incorporated into the scheme

Continuing in 2021...

- Preliminary design and design fixes will continue
- Further engagement workshops with councils and parish councils
- Road users and walking, cycling and horse riding workshops
- New business forums/workshops to discuss concerns from business and transport users
- Further landowner engagement
- Input from neighbouring councils
- Further surveys will be carried out

Contacts

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You can find out more about the scheme at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A12

Sign up for updates at

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHIGHWAY/subscriber/new?topic_id=UKHIGHWAY_2653

If you have another query about roadworks or roads issues, you can contact

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