

Infrastructure Update Report – October 2018

Ely Southern Bypass

The bypass will open to traffic on 31st October. Earthworks on the three embankments have been completed, work on the roundabouts is finished and final touches to the safety barrier, joints on the viaduct, white lining and signage are underway.

Work to build the pedestrian walkway continues and this will open late November.

Once the bypass has opened, work on the existing underpass and Station Road will begin. These works will be carried out under a 24/7 road closure, with access for cyclists and pedestrians maintained at all times. This will allow the works to be completed safely and as quickly as possible.

Although traffic will be encouraged to use the new bypass, local traffic can still use the underpass if they wish to. Consideration has been put into measures that will minimise delays whilst allowing improvement for pedestrians and cyclists. Traffic lights will be introduced either side of the underpass to reduce traffic to a single lane. This will allow for a new shared use pathway for cyclists and pedestrians travelling to and from Stuntney.

A new one way cycle lane will be built from Angel drove/Station Road roundabout to the upgraded road crossing for those cycling towards Stuntney. This will provide a link to the new shared use path under the underpass. The existing shared use footway/cycleway for accessing Ely will remain as it is for travelling from the railway station towards the Angel drove/Station Road roundabout.

For more information, please see the draft plans for the underpass and the Angel Drove/ Station Road cycleway at - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/transport-projects/ely-southern-bypass/>

North Ely

Hopkins Homes are on-site building out phase 1 of the Endurance Estates site, which comprises 199 homes. For more details please see the application on the Planning Portal (planning reference 16/01794/RMM).

Construction of the 66-bed care home, located close to the Isle of Ely School has also commenced.

The Redrow Homes applications for 200 dwellings on the Church Commissioners site (planning reference 17/01722/RMM) and the relevant section of the Spine Road from Thistle Corner junction have been approved and work has commenced.

Soham Railway Station

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) assumed responsibility for the Soham Rail Station project in June 2018, with the intention of accelerating delivery of the project as much as possible. At its board meeting in September the CPCA approved additional £1.7m funding to fund the project to the end of GRIP Stage 3.

GRIP Stage 3 explores the options available for the project and associated development, with the intention of working the preferred option up into a detailed design for GRIP Stage 4. GRIP Stage 3 is programmed to end in August 2019.

Soham Eastern Gateway

'This Land' (a development company) has been working on plans for the Eastern Gateway area of Soham and consulting with the local community since February 2018, with an aim to submit a planning application to East Cambridgeshire District Council before the end of 2018 (the previous application submitted by Cambridgeshire County Council was withdrawn).

Soham Eastern Gateway is located to the east of Weatheralls Primary School, between the town and the A142 bypass, and between Qua Fen Common and East Fen Common. The area has been identified as an area for development in the 2010 Soham Vision and in the 2015 East Cambridgeshire Local Plan. The development will provide up to 570 dwellings, including affordable housing, as well as a new GP surgery, commercial spaces, a nursery, and open, green and play spaces for all Soham residents.

Discussions are also underway regarding the provision of a new Free school as part of the redevelopment of the area.

A10 Improvements

Mott McDonald are continuing to explore options for potential A10 junction upgrades and the supporting transport corridor study, including potential delivery options for the dualling element of the work.

A Preliminary Strategic Outline Business Case and accompanying reports will be presented to the Combined Authority Board in November.

A14 junctions 35, 36, 37 and 38

The Combined Authority has allocated £150,000 for an A142 capacity study to understand the impact of growth on the key route between Newmarket and Chatteris and £150,000 towards a review of junctions 35-38 of the A14.

Funding bids for improvements to junctions 37 (A142 junction) and a feasibility study looking at improvements between Milton Interchange and Newmarket (which includes junctions 35 and 36) have been submitted to Highways England/Department for Transport for consideration for future funding as part of the Investment Strategy for Road Period 2 (RIS2). This funding period starts in 2020.

ECDC, working with Forest Heath District Council, CCC and Suffolk County Council, has commissioned a study looking into traffic movements at junction 38 to see if improvements are required to this junction. This is due to report shortly.

A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon

Highways England is nearly half way through the £1.5bn project to improve 21 miles of the A14 between Cambridge and Huntingdon – the biggest road upgrade currently in construction in the UK.

Highways England is proposing that an 18-mile section of the A14 in Cambridgeshire be classified as a motorway once upgrade work is complete, bringing economic and safety benefits. This will create an unbroken motorway link between London and Peterborough and will increase safety and improve journeys by encouraging local and long-distance traffic onto the most suitable routes.

This means the main section of the A14 upgrade between the M11 and the A1(M) can have the benefits of a motorway – including variable speed limits which reduce congestion and help traffic move more smoothly. The motorway section of the improved road will be called the A14(M) when it opens in 2020.

The new bypass and widened A14 will open to traffic in 2020.