

A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon improvement scheme

Development consent order amendment to make the A14 a motorway



We want the A14 upgrade to be the safest and best road it possibly can be and we now have an opportunity to make our road even better.

This £1.5bn improvement scheme includes a major new bypass to the south of Huntingdon and upgrades to 21 miles of the A14. Once complete, it will boost the local and national economy and cut up to 20 minutes off journeys.

The scheme's development consent order (DCO) is its planning permission. When we began designing the scheme we did not think it would be a motorway so we submitted a DCO asking to build a trunk road. As a result, the DCO does not allow us to change the road from A-road to motorway.

Now that modern motorway standards coincide with the scheme we're building, it makes sense for the road to become a motorway, to get the safest and best road possible. England's motorways are among the safest roads in the world.

We are therefore now asking the Planning Inspectorate for an amendment to our DCO to allow us to make it a motorway. We anticipate the Secretary of State for Transport will give us a decision this year. We are still on schedule to open to traffic by December 2020.

Implications of the new A14 becoming a motorway

Because the scheme's design meets the current standards for a modern motorway we're not changing what we're building. The route stays the same and the junctions don't change.

What would change

- Applying motorway regulations
- Slow moving vehicles prohibited from motorway
- Blue signs instead of green
- Variable mandatory speed limits to help manage traffic when appropriate

What would stay the same

- The design and engineering of the road
- Safety refuges already designed-in
- Local roads and junctions stay the same
- Old A14 route declassified to become a local road
- Improved pedestrian, cycle, equestrian provisions already designed-in
- Open to traffic by December 2020
- Total scheme cost

The benefits of reclassifying the new A14 as a motorway:

Safety

Motorways are twice as safe as A-road dual carriageways and six times safer than single-carriageway roads. Our motorways are amongst the world's safest roads.

Journey speed and reliability

We designed the road to provide mile-a-minute journeys. Removing slow moving traffic such as farm vehicles and mopeds will improve journey times and further improve safety.

We have built new roads and paths for local traffic, pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders as part of the scheme.

Have your say

If you want to have your say about our proposal please contact the Planning Inspectorate. Our DCO amendment reference number is TR010018.

 <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a14-cambridge-to-huntingdon-improvement-scheme/>

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