

Major Project South
05/11/2015
Scheme – M20 Junction 10a

To inform the SELEP Accountability Board of the current economic case and programme for the M20 Jn 10a scheme, for consideration of release of contributions.

1. Scheme Background

Improved access to and from the M20 Motorway via the proposed Junction 10a is seen as a key part of delivering the proposed development in Ashford, under the Local Plan and the Growth Area Agenda, as well as addressing any resulting congestion problems. The Highways England carried out a consultation in 2008, which was followed by a Preferred Route Announcement in 2010.

Ashford's local plan for development is heavily dependent on the completion of the scheme which will make a considerable contribution to the local economy.

2. Scheme Economics

Traffic modelling and economic assessments for the scheme are currently progressing, and the scheme has developed to the Current Scheme layout, which shows improved economic results under the assumption that a large part of Sevington developments is deemed dependent on the scheme. Further economic benefits of uplift in land values are also expected to arise from these developments, increasing the Value for Money of the project.

The Current Scheme layout will be publicly presented at the oncoming Public Consultation starting in January 2016.

An assessment has also been made of the wider economic benefits, which estimate that the scheme will have an economic impact of 4,500 permanent jobs and an estimated additional £1.6 billion discounted GVA to the local economy. This assessment will be used in conjunction with the conventional BCR calculations to support the Value for Money of the scheme.

Earlier discussions with SELEP indicated that the contribution from the Department for Communities and Local Government for the SELEP scheme (£19.7m) will be contributed to the Highways England scheme.

3. Current situation

Discussions within Highways England confirmed that the scheme continues, DfT has delegated these decisions for this value scheme to the new Highways England company. However, we have informed DfT of the situation and the risk of challenge during DCO, and they have asked to be informed of any public consultation exercise, so that they can manage any queries. The current programme is for public consultation in January 2016, DCO submission in June 2016, start of works in August 2017, open for traffic in February 2019 (Dates subject to change).