

YOUR VIEWS

Please answer the questions below and provide any comments you may have. There is a freepost address below.

1. Do you support improved access to the south of Ely?

YES

NO

2. Do you want to see traffic levels reduced around the station area?

YES

NO

3. Which of the options do you prefer?

Route B

Route D

Underpass

HCV stacking

HCV queuing lanes

Other

Comments

CONTACT US

If you have any queries or need further information, visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/elycrossing. You can also contact us by email (transport.delivery@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or phone (01223 699906).

If you would like a copy of the text in this newsletter in large print, Braille, audiotape or another language please contact us.

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HAVE YOUR SAY - Ely Crossing

Cambridgeshire County Council has identified Ely Crossing as one of its key infrastructure projects and wants local residents to have their say on the possible solutions.

This leaflet provides information about the work that has taken place in the last few years and, most importantly, gives residents the chance to have their say on how to resolve the various problems.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition events will be taking place to allow residents to speak to officers involved in the project.

Ely

Thursday, 20 October

9 til 3 – Stall at Ely Market

4 til 7.30 – Lamb Hotel, Lynn Road

Saturday, 29 October

9 til 3 – Stall at Ely Market

Stuntney

Wednesday, 26 October

5 til 7 – Stuntney Social Club,

Soham Road

Soham

Tuesday, 1 November

4.30 til 7 – Soham Village

College, Sand Street

Witchford

Wednesday, 2 November

5 til 7 – Witchford Sports and

Social Club, Bedwell Hay

Lane

There will also be unmanned exhibitions at:

Ely Library

Thursday, 20 October – Thursday, 10 November

Littleport Library

Monday, 24 October – Monday, 7 November

Fordham – Royal British Legion, Church Street

Saturday, 5 November – 11 til 3

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

The A142 through Ely carries 15,000 vehicles per day including 1,200 Heavy Commercial Vehicles (HCVs), such as lorries and buses. This leads to long queues at the level crossing near the station as the existing underpass has a height restriction and is limited to its usage.

In September 2010, surveys revealed the railway crossing was closed eight times an hour on average, resulting in the crossing being closed for 35 minutes out of the hour.

Last year, proposals by Network Rail were submitted to upgrade the Felixstowe to Nuneaton freight route. This will mean an additional 19 freight trains will travel through Ely by 2014, resulting in the level crossing being closed for 40 minutes per hour.

As a result of the barrier closures, a significant build up of traffic occurs in and around Ely Station. This also creates a difficult environment for pedestrians and cyclists.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?

In 2003 a public consultation was carried out to gather feedback on a number of possible solutions. Of the options put forward, Route B was the favoured option for the majority of residents.

Further work was then carried out to explore the various solutions identified, along with a number of low cost options.

In July this year a seminar was hosted by City of Ely Council to discuss the various options. Stakeholders included local authorities, parish councils, and Network Rail. Route B was favoured by the group as it not only solves the queuing issue at the level crossing, but it also significantly improves traffic flow around the station area.

TIMESCALES

Before any construction work can begin the scheme is subject to the full planning and orders process. The timescales given below are indicative and may be subject to change.

Pre-planning public consultation	17 October 2011 – 11 November
Cabinet decision on option	December 2011
Detailed design work and preparation of orders	December 2011 – March 2012
Cabinet decision on funding and draft orders	April 2012
Publish Draft Orders	July - September 2012
Submit Planning Application	September 2012
Public Inquiry	April 2013
Earliest date for start of construction	April 2014

FUNDING

In the past, the County Council has explored various ways of funding Route B, and submitted a number of bids to the government. These have proved to be unsuccessful.

To provide funding for any of the options detailed, the County Council will look into borrowing the money and then ultimately securing this back from developers or other sources.

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?

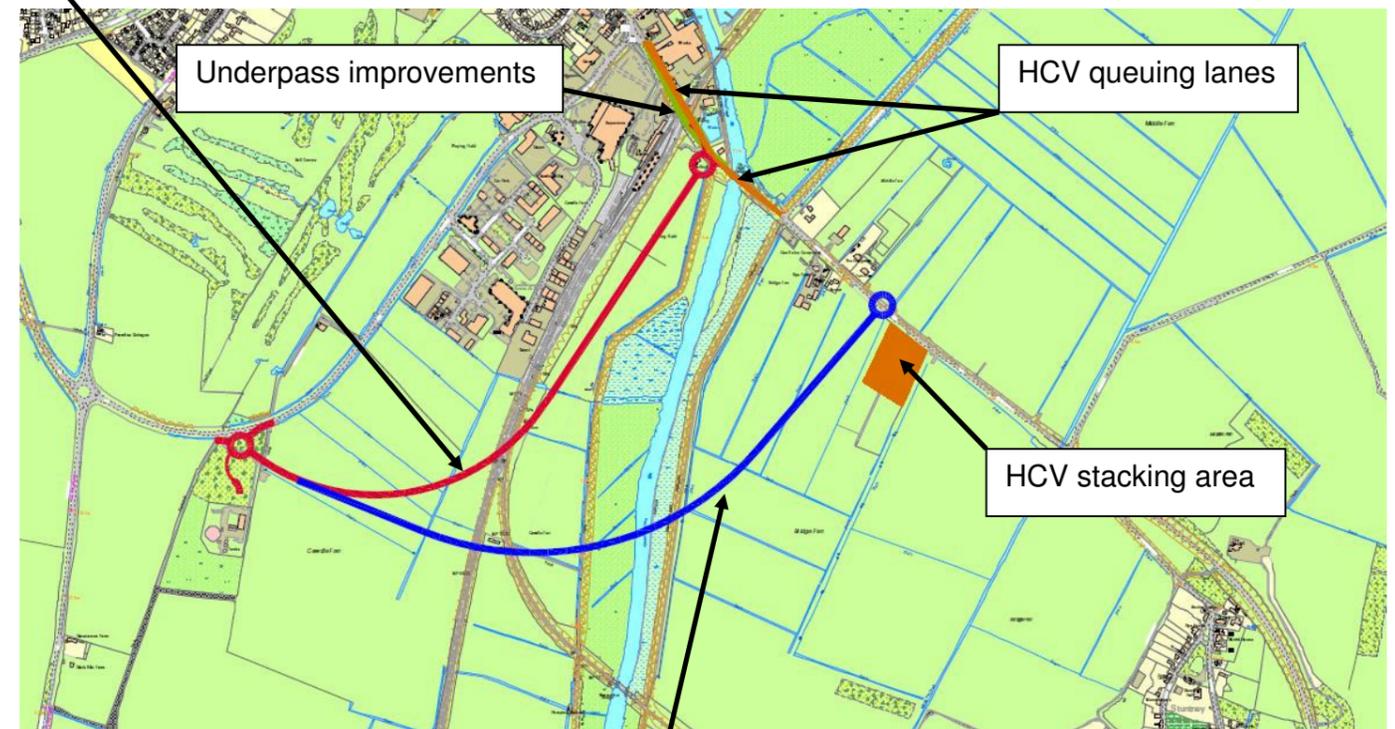
The option study identified five possible solutions to the traffic issues in the south of Ely. The diagram below shows the locations of the different options.

Route D

This new road includes a new roundabout on the A142 Angel Drove and a bridge over the rail lines but not over the River Great Ouse, and would finish immediately south of the current level crossing. The estimated cost of this scheme is £23m.

Underpass improvements

The road would be lowered under the current underpass so that HCVs can use it. As this would affect the existing foundations, the underpass would need to be totally reconstructed. This would cause major traffic disruption during construction. The estimated cost of this option is £15 million.



Route B

A new road would be built to the south of the current A142 and Ely station area. This includes a new roundabout on the A142 Angel Drove and a 500 metres long viaduct over the River Great Ouse, the flood plains and the rail lines and a new junction on the A142 Stuntney Causeway around 300 metres south of the Queen Adelaide junction. The estimated cost for this route is £28m.

Low cost option one - HCV stacking area

HCVs would be stacked in a lorry park during peak-hours and released at appropriate intervals. This could help unblock the queuing at the level crossing in the peak periods, but the release of HCVs from the stacking areas would cause delays to other traffic and further problems during the off-peak periods. This option would offer a short-term solution but would not help ease congestion around the station. The estimated cost would be £1 million.

Low cost option two - HCV queuing lanes

An additional lane alongside the A142 would be provided for HCVs to queue. This option would offer a short-term solution but would not help ease congestion around the station. The estimated cost would be £2.5 million.

Route B and D would also help reduce congestion around the station area. The underpass option, and the low cost options, would not address the congestion around this area.