



*Visualisation from Ely Cathedral tower
overlooking the new bypass*

Ely Southern Bypass

Cambridgeshire County Council is proposing a new bypass to the south of Ely to link Angel Drove and Stuntney Causeway, removing the need for traffic to pass the railway station and for high vehicles to use the level crossing.

The bypass will help the local economy by supporting development and growth through improving accessibility and journey times.

Have your say

Let us know your views on the plans for Ely Southern Bypass. Your feedback will help us to improve our plans and shape the final scheme.

Please let us have any feedback by
Friday 22 March 2013.



Why do we need a bypass?

The A142 through Ely carries 15,000 vehicles per day including 1,200 lorries and other tall vehicles. The A142 passes under a railway line via a low bridge, with tall vehicles having to use a level crossing next to the bridge. The level crossing is regularly closed to road traffic to allow trains to travel through. This leads to long queues at the level crossing which can cause the Station Road roundabout and the underpass to be blocked.

In September 2010, surveys revealed that the railway crossing was closed on average eight times an hour which resulted in it being closed for up to 35 minutes every hour. The problem will get worse in the coming years, as future growth on the railways will mean longer delays at the level crossing.

The new bypass will not only ease traffic in the south of Ely, but also open the way for enhancement of the area by East Cambridgeshire District Council as part of the emerging Local Plan.

The 2011 consultation

In late 2011 we presented the public with options to solve the problems at Ely. 1700 people submitted their views and 81 per cent supported the option for a new road connecting the A142 at Angel Drove to Stuntney Causeway with bridges over the railway line, the River Great Ouse and its floodplains.

Evaluation of the options showed that this route provided the best business case and value for money. It is now proposed to take this forward to the planning stage with the aim to start building in early 2015.

How will the new bypass benefit Ely?

The new bypass will relieve congestion and delays at the level crossing and remove a significant amount of traffic from the station area, allowing better access to the historic city centre, business areas and the railway station.

This will in turn support businesses in the area and encourage growth, boosting the local economy, and making Ely a more attractive place to live and work.

The new bypass will:

- reduce journey times between A10 and Stuntney Causeway by 56%
- reduce delays for motorists leaving the station by 50% at peak times
- increase opportunities for walking and cycling
- improve the reliability of bus services
- allow the area around the station to be improved



Visualisation of bypass looking towards Ely from the south

Will the bypass give value for money?

The new bypass is estimated to cost £30.7 million. However, the Ely Southern Bypass during its lifetime will create savings of more than two and half times its cost through reduced congestion.

Funding is currently being investigated from a number of sources including central government, future developments in East Cambridgeshire and County Council borrowing.

How will the bypass affect the Ely landscape?

The evaluation shows that the bypass will have an impact on the landscape and historic setting of Ely and its cathedral, seen in the visualisation above.

Could the bypass be a tunnel instead of a bridge?

We have investigated a variation of the original bypass options known as the Hidden Bypass. It would start from a new roundabout on Angel Drove, pass under the main railway line and cross King's Ely school playing fields back onto the A142.

The Hidden Bypass would impact significantly less on the landscape, but it would not provide value for money or solve all of the problems associated with the area because:

- it would be substantially more expensive
- the underpass would be below the water level and therefore have significant engineering problems both in construction and regular maintenance
- the alignment would require a lower speed limit than other options which would make journeys longer
- the rail industry preferred option would be a bridge over the railway line
- the proximity of the new roundabout to the station entrance would result in long queues for traffic exiting the station
- it would cut through land proposed for a new business park and result in the loss of King's Ely playing fields, which would need to be relocated nearby.

Does the impact of the bypass outweigh its benefits?

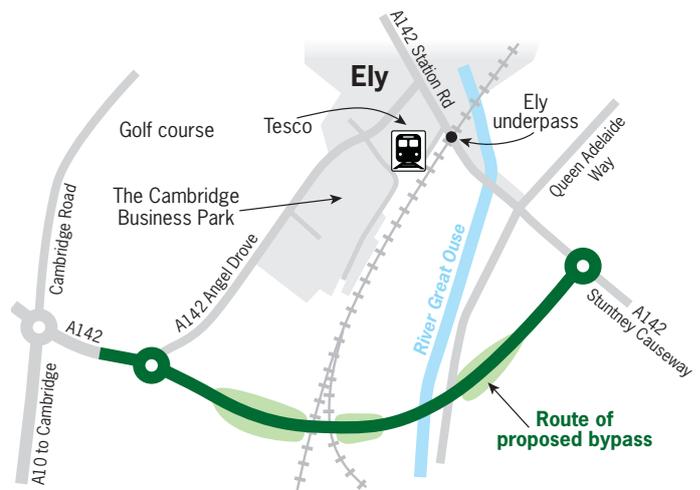
The proposed bypass would be the most effective solution to relieve congestion. It provides the best value for money, supports the improvement of the station area and gives the greatest wider benefits to Ely. Set against this is the impact it will have on the local landscape and the setting of the cathedral, which while significant, is not considered to outweigh the benefits the bypass would bring.

Timeline of key events

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

Public consultation	March 2013
Planning application submitted	June 2013
Outline design	June 2013
Planning application considered by planning committee	December 2013
Public Inquiry	Early 2014
Earliest start of construction	Early 2015
Earliest time of opening	Spring 2016

Location of proposed bypass



Find out more

Visit an exhibition, learn about the plans and speak with us directly. Your views will be fed into the plans and help us improve the detail.

Where	When	Address	Time
Ely	Tuesday 5 March	Lamb Hotel, Stable Suite, Lynn Road, CB7 4EJ	4.30-7.30pm
Stuntney	Wednesday 6 March	Stuntney Social Club, Soham Road, CB7 5TL	5-7pm
Ely	Tuesday 12 March	Ely train station, Station Road, CB7 4BS	4-7pm
Witchford	Thursday 14 March	Witchford Village Hall, Bedwell Hey Lane, CB6 2JN	5-7pm
Ely	Saturday 16 March	Ely Market, Market Place, CB7 4NT	9am-3pm
Soham	Thursday 21 March	Soham Village College, Beechurst Hall, Sand Street, CB7 5AA	4.30-7.30pm

Contact

Please tell us your views on the proposed Ely bypass. Send us your feedback by:

Email: transport.delivery@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Phone: 01223 699906

Post: Transport Delivery Team, Cambridgeshire County Council, CC1211 Castle Court, Castle Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

For the latest information, updates and news on Ely bypass, visit:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/ely-bypass

Stay in the loop and continue the conversation on twitter [#elysouthernbypass](https://twitter.com/elysouthernbypass)

If you would like a copy of the text in this leaflet in large print, Braille, audio tape or in another language, please call 01223 699906.