



Department  
for Transport

From the Parliamentary  
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Nick Herbert MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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- 3 MAR 2016

Dear Nick,

I know there have been some understandable concerns about Highways England's planned consultation on the A27 Chichester Scheme. I have engaged with the senior leadership team at Highways England and am able to provide you with the following update.

As you know, Highways England is proposing options to improve a section of the A27 near Chichester. There are currently five roundabouts and one traffic signal controlled junction along this section. Congestion regularly occurs at these locations and will worsen unless traffic is managed more effectively. This scheme aims to improve the traffic flow, relieve congestion and support economic growth in the area.

Highways England has assessed a range of options, many of which have been considered during the long history of this project and they will present this context during the consultation. Their current focus, in line with the expectations set out in [the Government's Road Investment Strategy \(RIS\)](#), will be on upgrading four junctions on the existing A27 and they will be consulting on a number of options and permutations.

To be clear, this will not include alternative routes which have been previously considered, such as a northern route which could impact on the Goodwood estate.

Highways England will still need to undertake some further assessments in order to ensure that the options for upgrading on which they will consult are sufficiently robust. They had originally planned to undertake the consultation in the next few weeks but now expect to do so in late spring/early summer. This will not affect the target start date for the scheme.

The project team are working in partnership with West Sussex County Council and Chichester District Council to plan the consultation and will take into account their views on the venues and style of the public exhibitions.

Key milestones on the scheme are set out below.

Activity	Timings
Full public consultation on the short list of options	Spring/early Summer 2016
The preferred route designed in more detail Full statutory consultation on the preferred route	2017 (dates to be confirmed)
Start of works (if planning consent is granted)	2018/2019
Works complete and open for traffic	Option dependant: 2021 - 2023

An update to your constituents will be provided via a forthcoming parish council meeting at the end of this week and then via a fuller project update out to the local community early next week.

I have asked Highways England to keep stakeholders regularly informed of progress and to write to them setting out the current situation, as set out above. I trust this will reassure about our commitment to move the scheme outlined in the Road Investment Strategy forward, to the specified timescales.

Yours,

Andrew

**ANDREW JONES**