

## Major Highways Scheme Update – February 2021

### Lincoln Eastern Bypass

The road, footway and cycleway opened Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Works are continuing in 2021 to complete the project, which includes:

- Completing footway and cycleway links to the Viking Way, Sustrans route and other minor connections
- Completing final topsoil activities
- Landscaping across the full length of the road
- Excess earthworks removal
- Final defect corrections
- Finalising accommodation works for adjacent landowners
- Timber fencing
- Drainage ponds

It's very likely that final completion will be late spring following the prolonged wet weather period experienced in early 2021. The excess earthworks requiring removal is saturated and would cause more damage to the site to remove before it dries out. The vast majority of the earthworks material is also being reused in the development of the proposed Cherry Willingham marina, this site is currently closed due to Covid lockdown arrangements which has also compounded the delays.

### Grantham Southern Relief Road

Phase 1 from the B1174 running towards the A1 is already complete.

Phase 2 consists of tunnelling underneath the A1 while keeping the running lanes live to create a new grade separated junction with the A1 south west of Grantham. The main works commenced in September 2019 being constructed by Galliford Try. The project is now past the halfway stage with the A1 traffic now running on the new western half of the bridge. Piling and pile cap works are complete on the eastern side of the A1, with works focussing on the construction of the abutments. The next significant milestone will be when the bridge beams are delivered and installed at the end of February 2021. Works are planned to be complete by Autumn 2021.

Phase 3 will be the final phase of the project and is the largest and most complex to deliver. It consists of a five span viaduct carrying the road over the East Coast Mainline railway and the River Witham. Land has been secured and the planning permission has been enacted. Early works have commenced, which includes vegetation clearance, ecological works, archaeological works, fencing, compound establishment, utility diversions and a haul road construction. The final target cost

was agreed between Galliford Try and LCC on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and the team are in the process of issuing the notice to proceed and agreeing a contract Deed of Variation. The electric cable was successfully removed from over the electrified East Coast Main Line at the end of January and final approvals are being sought from Network Rail to allow construction commencement. Full works programme is planned to commence in April 2021.

### **North Hykeham Relief Road**

The Outline Business Case for the project was completed and the bid document was submitted to the DfT, via Midlands Connect in February 2019. In December LCC was informed that the bid was successful resulting in programme entry approval, which attracts £110m towards the project from the DfT. The S151 officer has confirmed acceptance of the funding terms and an inception meeting occurred in December 2020. Recruitment has commenced for a Project Director, which is likely to be finalised in February 2021 and an options paper has been produced and presented for procuring design and construction resources, a decision is yet to be made.

Tasks for the early part of 2021 will include setting the programme, project governance and appropriately resourcing the required activities.

### **Spalding Western Relief Road**

Section 5 (Northern Connection) – In February 2018 SHDC in collaboration with LCC were successful in securing £12m from the HCA for delivering this section of the SWRR. Since then a further £8.13m has been sourced from the HCA. Enabling works have commenced on site, which includes archaeological investigations, some vegetation clearance, utility diversion preparation and property demolition.

The design package was submitted to the contractor before Christmas and the final target cost was received at the end of January 2021.

There are three main barriers to commencing works. Agreeing a target cost with the contractor, finalising the land acquisition agreements and gaining Network Rail technical approval. All three are being progressed, however the land acquisition and Network Rail approval is taking much longer than expected .

Works are planned to start in spring 2021, but this is subject to the resolving the issues above.

### **A46 Dunholme/Welton Roundabout Improvement**

The A46 Dunholme/Welton roundabout improvement consists of constructing a roundabout and improving visibility at an existing 'T' junction. LCC was successful with a National Productivity Investment Fund Tranche 2 bid for £2m.

The project started on site on 20<sup>th</sup> July with progress to date being excellent. The following activities took place in January:

- Anglian Water main commissioning is still ongoing.
- Anglian Water still to complete back to backs for new main and cut and cap on the old main. This is now likely to be completed in February.

- Workforce cut back to two Eurovia gangs as planned in the programme.
- Earthworks subcontractor completed earthwork bunds and laid final topsoil layer.
- Works on the A46 have been pushed back to February due to Anglian Water delays.
- Kerbs on the south side of the A46 have been removed.
- 1 manhole constructed.
- Footways and roundabout splitter islands have started to be constructed.
- Gully connections continue.
- Re-alignment of Horncastle Lane to stop vehicle over-run.

Works are programmed to be complete spring 2021 although weather remains a risk to this completion timeframe.

### **Holdingham Roundabout, Sleaford**

This scheme will ease congestion at Holdingham roundabout, increase capacity and improve traffic flow in all directions. The project involves constructing additional lanes at each approach, widening the circulatory on the roundabout and installing traffic lights to control the flow.

The site has been mobilising for the last 4 weeks and works are starting on 15<sup>th</sup> February, with the planned completion being the end of 2021.

### **Corringham Road Junction, Gainsborough**

The Corringham Road/Thorndike Way junction improvement scheme will increase safety and improve traffic flow via the addition of traffic signals at all of the junction's approaches. The project also includes some localised widening of the carriageway and the future proofing of a signalised access into what is currently a farming access but will become a housing development site.

The works were completed 5<sup>th</sup> February and have been positively received.

### **Roman Bank, Skegness**

The Skegness Roman Bank Improvement scheme will see the full reconstruction of a 550-metre section of carriageway and footway between the Burgh Road/Castleton Boulevard junction to just past Elmhirst Avenue. The works include new road lining, half a mile of new drainage facilities, refurbishing the pedestrian crossing near the junction of Roman Bank and Sea View Road and rebuilding the footways on both sides of the carriageway.

Work started on site as planned on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Works are going well, and the project has past the halfway stage. The contractor is now working on phase 4 of 6. Works are due to be complete by Easter 2021, although weather and unchartered utilities remain as risks to achieving this completion date.

## **Lincolnshire Coastal Highway**

Lincolnshire County Council investigated potential improvements to the A158 across the county from the A1 to the North Sea coast, known as the 'Lincolnshire Coastal Highway'. This looked at the options for intervention along the route. In identifying improvements to the Highway, consideration was given to being future-ready, building in capacity to support growth, investigating options across a range of modes, building in resilience and lower longer term costs for management of infrastructure.

A paper went to Informal Executive on 19 June 2018 outlining the proposed shortlisted projects including existing projects like the North Hykeham Relief Road, A46/A15 Nettleham Road Roundabout and A46/A158 Riseholme Road Roundabout. The Executive proposed three additional projects which were also developed, these being: Horncastle Bypass, Skegness Relief Road and Wragby Pedestrian Crossing as well as various safety improvements.

The Horncastle bypass concept paper was completed which identified expected costs and benefits. Due to the DfT scoring mechanism the benefits are very low in comparison to the cost and therefore would not attract any central government funding, this project is therefore currently not being progressed but is included in the Council's pipeline of projects to consider in the future.

A Skegness Relief Road concept paper has also been completed which indicates a route that attracts a relatively high 'Benefit to Cost Ratio' score meaning that it may attract third party funding should a funding opportunity arise.

Following the announcement of a Coastal Highway Budget allocation a programme of works are being developed over a number of years. Approximately £6.5m has been allocated to date, towards various improvements along and around the Lincolnshire Coastal Highway. This includes carriageway reconstruction, carriageway resurfacing, guard rail replacement, white lining and new/improved pedestrian facilities.

## **Wragby Pedestrian Crossings and Mini-Roundabout Improvements**

There are two projects proposed within this investment initiative. The first is the establishment of a puffin crossing along the A158 east of the mini roundabout. This project was completed in 2020.

The second project involves the enlargement of the splitter island at the mini roundabout to provide improved crossing facilities and also the establishment of zebra crossing along the A157 north of the mini roundabout. These works are programmed to commence in March 2021.