

### **Grantham Southern Relief Road**

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

Phase 2 which is the new graded separated junction on to the A1 is completed and opened on 20 December 2022.

Phase 3 is 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. Works commenced April 2021 and have focussed on extensive ground works, embankment construction either side of the Witham Valley and the installation of the bridge foundation piles. The piling works for the bridge piers commenced in January 2022 and the foundation for the western abutment has been completed. There are complexities and challenges with the construction of the eastern embankment which are being developed. One of these issues is that the underlying ground is not as robust as the designer had anticipated or designed the bridge to sit upon. The result is that the bridge is being lengthened approximate 70m towards the East to avoid the area where the poor ground is situated. This will result in approximately 18 months delay, pushing the completion back to Summer 2025. The project will also incur significant cost increases in excess of £15 million. A full investigation is under way to understand how this has occurred and where the liability rests. This is being done in conjunction with the design remediation. Elsewhere the project is continuing well where the A1 junction opened on 20 December 2022 and the section between the A52 Somerby Roundabout and the development roundabout opening Spring 2023.

### **North Hykeham Relief Road**

When complete, this new road will link the A15 Lincoln Eastern Bypass with the A46 Western Bypass at Pennells Roundabout to create a full ring road around Lincoln. The project also aims to:

- Assist the sustainable economic growth of Lincoln and Lincolnshire
- Maximise accessibility to Lincoln
- Improve journey times and road safety in Lincoln

In December Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) was informed that the project had achieved programme entry approval from the Department for Transport (DfT), which also secured £110 million towards the project from the DfT. A key decision to appoint Balfour Beatty as the Design and Build Contractor was approved on 05 April 2022 who in turn will appoint a design consultant. The project has now entered the next key stage which focusses on data acquisition and design in advance of a planning application being submitted in late

2023. Intrusive Geophysical, Ground Investigation and Ecology surveys are taking place across the route so people will see activities relating to these in the area. Three public engagement events took place on 13, 14 and 15 September to ensure the public are informed on progress and to gain their views on progress being made. These events were well received and positive towards the proposed scheme. Two further events are planned in Spring and then Summer 2023. It is likely that works will commence late 2025, however the project is subject to many statutory processes and risks that have the potential to delay the scheme. It's also worth noting that current material inflation will have a significant increase of forecast scheme costs.

### **Spalding Western Relief Road**

Section 5 (Northern Connection) – In February 2018 SHDC in collaboration with LCC were successful in securing £12 million from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) for delivering this section of the SWRR. Since then, a further £8.13 million has been sourced from the HCA.

Works commenced in January 2022 with the construction of the two piling platforms to allow the c1600 number piles to be installed to support the bridge over the rail line. These piles are now complete with the focus moving to pile caps (currently 1500 completed) and construction of the embankment. In addition, the new roundabout on Spalding Road is largely completed and open to traffic. Works are programmed to be completed by the end of 2023.

### **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 and building in resilience and lower longer-term costs for management of infrastructure.

A 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 medium 'Benefit to Cost Ratio' score meaning that it may attract third party funding should a funding opportunity be presented. A further detailed feasibility of the potential road is now being developed.

A feasibility of an Orby bypass is also being progressed.

### **Levelling Up Fund Projects (LUF)**

LCC submitted a bid to central government under the LUF initiative, this consisted of the following projects:

- A16/A151 Springfield roundabout capacity improvement
- A16 Greencell roundabout (Spalding Power Station) capacity improvement
- A16 Kirton four-way signalised junction – with associated small section of dual carriageway leading into and out of the junction along the A16 – *Now removed, see below.*
- A16 Marsh Lane Roundabout – designated north bound lane
- Boston Active travel schemes

In October 2021 it was announced that the bid had been successful. Since the announcement the projects have all moved into detailed design with a view to start on site in 2023 and be completed 2025. The first two project, Marsh Lane roundabout and Boston Active Travel went to Highways and Transport Scrutiny for discussion prior to gaining a key decision approval from the Leader. These projects went out to tender in January 2023, with a view to starting April/May 2023.

There have been some concerns raised from the local community regarding the development of the Kirton signalised junction. A public meeting was held in July where the project team attended to answer questions and took away a large quantity of views and thoughts for the form of the proposed scheme. Following this meeting discussions have been ongoing with the DfT and recently they have announced that they are content with the removal of this scheme from the programme and to use those funds to offset the inflationary costs increases on the other five projects.

### **A17 Heckington Dual Carriageway**

LCC was successful with a funding bid of £50k from Midlands Connect to progress a scheme to a Strategic Outline Business Case Stage. This is matched funded by LCC to help build-up a sizable 'pool' of credible business cases Midland Connect region can prioritise for submission to the DfT when the next MRN fund and Regional Evidence Base process is called. A date for which is unknown at this stage, but it could possibly be in 2023.

LCC put forward the A17 Heckington dualling proposals which includes dualling the sections between the east and west junctions of Heckington and possibly some junction alterations. The Business Case has been completed which indicates it has a very low likelihood of attracting third party funding. It will however be put forward to Midlands Connect as a potential project for funding in the future.

## **Grantham Future High Street Fund**

South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) was successful with their Future High Street fund bid, which included two projects which impact the highway. These include Station Approach five arm junction and the Market Place. The Station Approach project entails improving the pedestrian facilities to make the flow of pedestrian movements coming from the station into Grantham town centre a more pleasing experience. At the moment it is very industrial, therefore the project will remove barriers, improve the form of the pedestrian islands, install conservation street furniture amongst some more general maintenance elements. The Market Place project will lift the existing carriageway stone setts, so they are the same level as the existing footway stone setts. This combined with the removal of street furniture will allow for more events to be held in the marketplace while not impacting the stability of the carriageway.

Both these projects are currently going through detailed design with the Station Approach project due to start mid-2023. Since the bids were successful, accelerated construction inflation has had an impact on the proposed projects, therefore the Station Approach projects will be constructed first and then SKDC will review whether they have sufficient funds to pay for the Market Place project.

It should be stressed that these are not County led projects and therefore the risks sit with SKDC.

## **Sincil Bank**

The City of Lincoln was successful with their Towns Fund Bid, which included amongst other things Sincil Bank regeneration scheme. This project includes embedding a one-way system and residents parking facilities that will complement the potential residents parking Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). The project also entails a significant sum of public realm improvement to enhance the town scape. There are concerns regarding the cost of the scheme compared to the budget allowance when factoring in the accelerated construction inflation that has occurred since the bid was successful. As such the team are preparing to the project to be split in phases so that the County can ensure the scheme does not go over the funds that the City of Lincoln Council (CoLC) have.

It should be stressed that this is not a County led project and therefore the risks sit with CoLC.

## **Dolphin Lane**

This a joint funded project between LCC and Boston Borough Council which originated from the District's Heritage Lottery Fund. The project is a public realm scheme that improve the pavement to new stone setts that are in keeping with the surrounding environment. This will connect directly to the Market Place which has the same type of stone setts.

Works are due to start spring/summer 2023.