

A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme Expansion of Submission 581

Existing situation

Congestion occurs on the A14 during peak periods due to commuter traffic to Cambridge and Huntingdon mixing with West-East and A1-M11 traffic. Because of this a large number of commuters no longer use the A14 but instead use alternative routes through local villages. When accidents occur on the A14 between Cambridge and Huntingdon there are no alternative major routes available, causing jams on the routes through the local villages.

Given the additional development in the area and the recovery of the economy the volume of traffic on the A14 will increase.

Congestion occurs on Hinchingsbrooke Park Road/Brampton Road due to traffic from the housing estates, Police Headquarters, Hospital and School all using a single entrance/exit.

Incident on new A14

In the event of an accident, road works etc. on the new A14 a viable alternative route needs to be provided. At present an accident on the old A14 causes a 2 - 3 hour journey time from Huntingdon to Cambridge via the routes through the local villages. In the Consultation report pg. 82 regarding this matter it states that 'The Highways Agency has developed a draft operational strategy for the new route which identifies diversion routes in the case of incidents.' It would be useful to see this document and see the expected Traffic flows when an incident has occurred.

I would suggest that the A14 viaduct is retained until a viable alternative route is provided e.g. a dual carriageway A428, as it would be unfortunate to spend £1.5 billion on a new road, remove the existing alternative route and still have massive disruption whenever an incident occurred.

Link to Hinchingsbrooke Park Road

Providing a link from the old A14 to Hinchingsbrooke Park Road by the police Headquarters will make the existing congestion on Hinchingsbrooke Park Road and Brampton Road worse not better. The aim should be to minimize the through traffic using Hinchingsbrooke Park Road whilst providing an additional exit from the estate, school etc.

It would be more sensible to have a single carriageway connection from the Spittalls roundabout to near the bend in Parkway and end the dual carriageway before the Spittalls roundabout. This would mean that traffic would not be driving through the estate. It should allow quick access/exit for ambulances/private vehicles to the hospital. It would also provide another exit from the estate. It would allow Views common to be merged back together. The material from the removed A14 could be used to fill in the Spittalls roundabout. The dual carriageway will need to be blocked before the roundabout anyway when the viaduct is being removed. Any traffic using the old A14 from the A1 would have to go along the A141 in this situation. Any traffic wishing to continue along the old A14 would need to use Stukely Road, Ermine Street and Edison Bell Way. This would decrease the number of vehicles turning right off Brampton Road to access the station or the old A14. At present there is only space for three or four vehicles in the right turn lane and the road cannot be widened due to the railway bridge.