

No provision for rail or tram route within the scope of the LTC. Lack of futuristic foresight. The LTC will take 5-6 yrs to build and this should have been seriously considered as a means of reducing road traffic in the future.

Previously considered but discarded Route Options would have been cheaper and more viable in solving traffic issues and providing alternative Links from Essex to Kent and vice versa. One alternative option (Medway - Canvey Island 2008) would have facilitated scope for traffic to access other road networks serving the East of England etc., as well as serving to reduce congestion on a larger portion of the A13. In addition there was a proposed rail link. The following is a passage from the Studies and Support:

“A new road connection from the A130 and A13 in Essex to the A289 and M2 in Kent will create a new road orbital system for the whole Thames Gateway region. Similarly, a new twin-track rail connection from Wickford and Pitsea in Essex to Rochester and Ebbsfleet in Kent will create a new rail orbital for the Thames Gateway that links the eastern limbs of Cross Rail and will give Canvey Island its own railway station for the first time and a third road access off the island.”

To incorporate plans for a Rail plus Road Crossing would make a Crossing Project more viable and be mindful of futuristic need.