

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Lower Thames Crossing](#)
Subject: TR10032 - Interested Parties Response - Deadline 12th December 2024
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We have lived in [REDACTED] Essex for 38 years and remain strongly opposed to the LTC in its current proposed location.

National Highways themselves agree that it will not meet its original purpose to significantly reduce congestion issues at the Dartford Crossing. Therefore carbon emissions would surely remain an issue.

Construction works are projected to take 5 to 6 years to complete during which time more carbon emissions would result from traffic movements of HGV's, Plant and Machinery and the inevitable congestion and delays on local road networks due to traffic management procedures. (temporary road closures or part closures, traffic light controls etc.) National Highways admitted that certain Junctions (along the A13) would see an increase, not a reduction in traffic build up once the LTC becomes operational.

The design and route of the LTC, even though it is being classed as an 'A' road, not a Motorway, will not enhance or improve public transport or active travel and opportunities. Buses would be able to use the route, but it is extremely unlikely that it would be economically viable. There is no provision for cyclists, pedestrians etc. to use the route.

Huge disruption has already been caused over several years to local people who have been forced to move out of their homes (via "discretionary purchase" by National Highways and predecessors Highways England) for fear of the devastation the construction of the LTC would cause. Many have suffered from the long term worry and stress of the negative impacts on air pollution from construction works, local wildlife and loss of farmland and greenbelt. Several very old properties, some listed,

have been seriously neglected since being purchased by National Highways which fills us with sadness, especially as we had a special warm and friendly community around us until so many neighbours chose to move whilst they could, rather than endure the stress of what was to come.

The LTC has been a project for many years, with several route options being put forward, two of which we, like many others, believe would have had greater benefit cost ratio, and provided the opportunity to improve and enhance public transport and active travel.

Discarded Routes:

Option A14 (At Dartford Crossing) when put forward would have cost very significantly less and would have diverted local traffic away from the M25 allowing free flowing motorway traffic, greatly reducing congestion

issues at the Dartford Crossing.

Medway-Canvey Island crossing" a £2–4 billion (2008) combined road and rail tunnel between Medway and Canvey Island that would include a surge-tide barrier and a tidal power plant, which was supported by Kent County Council, Essex County Council, the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership and the Department for Transport. (See Wikipedia information on the history of the Lower Thames Crossing)

It would have provided alternative links for container and other traffic to access ports such as Felixstowe, Ipswich and Harwich. Plus it could have given residents of Canvey Island another route to leave or access the Island. Sadly it did not come to fruition despite the construction of the 'new' A130 from the Sadler's Farm Roundabout at Benfleet which we had believed to be the Junction which was to connect with the proposed crossing.

At an estimated cost of £9 Billion plus, this 14.5 mile road will not provide value for money or significantly improve traffic congestion once it is completed and will undoubtedly cause chaos, congestion and increased pollution during the 5/6 years of construction.

This money could be better invested in repairing our current Road Networks many of which are in an appalling condition. The potholes and sinking road surfaces are an accident hazard to motor vehicles and cyclists. Some are so deep and wide that they are unavoidable, especially if there is oncoming traffic. They must also be the cause of punctures and other damage over a period of time.

We sincerely hope that this project will be seen for the 'white elephant' it is and not be given the go ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jackie Thacker and Mr. John Thacker