

NewsRelease

08 November 2019

PR 6851

Public get first look at initial options for Army and Navy junction

Initial options for a long-term solution at the Army and Navy junction in Chelmsford have been shared with the public for the first time.

The junction is currently operating significantly over capacity in the morning and evening peak hours, meaning drivers regularly experience delays and it has very little resilience to cope with traffic incidents.

The issue has been compounded by the permanent closure of the Army and Navy flyover, which Essex County Council announced in September 2019 following the recommendation of a detailed engineering report.

The council is pressing ahead with plans to remove the flyover as soon as possible, while various short-term measures have been put in place to manage traffic flow.

The initial options for the junction, which are detailed in an online public information brochure, are:

- **Minor Road Layout Improvements** - A package of minor improvements, including an extension to the Parkway to Chelmer Road slip road, an additional lane on the roundabout between Parkway and Essex Yeomanry Way, an extra lane on entry to the roundabout from Essex Yeomanry Way, and enhanced pedestrian and cycling routes
- **Two-way Flyover** - A new modern standard two-way flyover allowing a significant amount of traffic to avoid the roundabout and travel to and from Parkway and Essex Yeomanry Way in both directions
- **Hamburger Roundabout** – Otherwise known as a throughabout, traffic would be able to travel straight between Essex Yeomanry Way and Parkway through the centre of the junction without using the roundabout. Traffic travelling to other arms of the junction would use the roundabout. Traffic signals would be used to manage traffic flows and priority.
- **Enlarged Roundabout** - The existing roundabout would be enlarged into the floodplain, creating a larger circulatory. The approach lanes on

Parkway would also be widened. Traffic flows would be managed by traffic signals

- **Separate T-Junctions** - Two new T-junctions created – one linking Essex Yeomanry Way/Parkway and Chelmer Road, and the other linking Essex Yeomanry Way/Parkway and Van Diemens Road. Traffic signals would be used to control traffic flow at the junctions, as well as traffic joining Van Diemens Road from Baddow Road.

The Department for Transport has stressed the importance of sustainable transport in any solution to help reduce travel demand throughout the city centre and a city-wide package of potential sustainable transport measures is being developed to complement the final scheme.

Cllr Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader of Essex County Council and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, said: “We are working incredibly quickly to develop the best possible scheme for the Army and Navy.

“The junction is a crucial gateway to Chelmsford and we want to provide a long-term and sustainable solution that is an asset to the city.

“I am very pleased to now be in a position to share the initial options that we are exploring at this early stage and we look forward to giving the public the opportunity to have their say on a revised shortlist of options at a later date, which is expected to be in late 2020 or early 2021.

“The options are being assessed to initially establish which would be the most effective in improving the junction and encouraging more sustainable travel, while avoiding putting additional pressure on other roads in the city centre.

“Steps are already being taken to reduce the programme wherever we can and we will continue to progress the project as quickly as possible, including exploring any opportunities to bring forward elements of the chosen option sooner. However, we must also ensure we get this right and achieve the best solution for Chelmsford.”

The public information brochure, which provides background to the project and outlines the initial options for the junction in more detail, including the advantages and disadvantages of the options, is available online at: www.essex.gov.uk/armyandnavy.

Printed copies will also be available to view at libraries in Chelmsford from Wednesday, 13 November.

An audio read-through of the brochure, produced by local charity Chelmsford Talking Newspaper, will shortly be on the website and sent to its listeners.

For all the latest updates on the Army and Navy scheme, please subscribe to the project e-newsletter at www.essex.gov.uk/armyandnavy.

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Notes to Editors:

Initial concept drawings for the options are attached to this release and can be downloaded via the links below. They are for illustrative purposes only and designs are subject to change.

https://www.essexhighways.org/uploads/docs/army_navy_junc_improve_brochure_online.pdf

For Essex County Council media enquiries:

Press Office at press.desk@essex.gov.uk

Out of Hours: 07717 867525

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