

7 APRIL 2016

---

**HERTFORDSHIRE'S STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN DELIVERY –  
MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE**

Author: Richard Boutal (Major Projects Group, HCC)

LTB Chair: Derrick Ashley (HCC Executive Member for Environment, Planning & Transport)

**1 Purpose of report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update in relation to the Major Schemes to be delivered as part of the Hertfordshire Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) I the period 2015-2019.

**2 Background**

2.1 As part of the current SEP, three projects designated as 'Major Schemes' are programmed for delivery within the period 2015-2019 – Croxley Rail Link; A120 Bypass (Little Hadham) and Flood Alleviation Scheme and A602 Improvements (Stevenage to/from Ware).

2.2 This report provides programme updates for all three projects. Delivery responsibility for the Croxley Rail Link - now rebadged as the Metropolitan Line Extension (MLX) - transferred to TfL / London Underground in November 2015..

**3. Recommendation**

3.1 It is requested that the Board note this report.

**Scheme Updates**

**4 A120 Hadham Bypass**

Programme Overview

4.1 The programmed dates for project gateways are –

- Gateway 4 (Conditional Approval) – June 2017
- Gateway 5 (Final Approval) – July 2017
- Gateway 6 (Completion) – March 2019

4.2 The above dates assume a Public Inquiry (PI) will be required and will take place in January 2017. Procurement processes will be progressed in parallel with PI processes. The DfT have retained final funding approval for the project and as such, Conditional approval will seek to secure approval of the full business case, including an estimate of scheme costs, following confirmation of statutory powers.

## HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT BODY

7 APRIL 2016

---

- 4.3 Full approval will be sought from DfT on the return of tender prices for the contract to facilitate release of the funding to the LEP. This will also enable the making of any Compulsory Purchase Orders required to secure the land for the implementation of the project.
- 4.4 Construction start date is programmed for late 2017 with current contractor discussions indicating a build period of 15-18 months.

### Current position

- 4.5 Planning Application was submitted in November 2015. Key objections have been received from the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust and a local Bat Group in relation to impacts on bats and mitigation. Natural England has responded to the planning consultation, however, they have not made comment specifically on this issue.
- 4.6 HCC's Legal Counsel has suggested further engagement is required with Natural England in order to provide a robust basis for the planning process and any future orders and licenses the scheme may require.
- 4.7 An addendum to the planning application will be required. The opportunity will also be taken to make a number of minor amendments in relation to other comments received during the planning consultation.
- 4.8 It is anticipated the scheme will be considered at the July 2016 Planning Committee

### Procurement

- 4.9 A series of procurement workshops have led to the working assumption for a "traditional" procurement route, with HCC undertaking the detailed design process and a standard construction construct being tendered.
- 4.10 The most recent procurement workshop considered the contract routes available, including standard "OJEU" processes; use of EHF2 and the Highways England Collaborative Delivery Framework.
- 4.11 Consideration was also given to potential options to phase the construction of the scheme. The outcome was a move towards the works contract being procured via a full OJEU tender process. It was considered that a contract specifically developed to suit the A120 scheme would provide access to a wider range of tenderers with the correct abilities.
- 4.12 The procurement strategy is being finalised and will be reported to the LTB following is approval through the project governance.

7 APRIL 2016

---

5 A602 Improvements

**Scheme sections**



**Programme Overview**

5.1 The programmed dates for project gateways are –

- Gateway 4 (Conditional Approval)
  - Sections A & C - July 2016
  - Section B - Sept 2017
- Gateway 5 (Final Approval)
  - Sections A & C - Nov 2016
  - Section B - Nov 2017
- Gateway 6 (Completion)
  - Sections A - Oct 17
  - Section C – July 2019
  - Section B - Nov 2017

5.2 The above dates have made an allowance for Public Inquiry procedures in relation to Section B, even though there is a high likelihood this may not be necessary. They also assume the earliest delivery dates for Sections A and C can be achieved, which will require potential flexibility in funding allocations from the Herts LEP.

# HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT BODY

7 APRIL 2016

---

## Current position

- 5.3 The Planning Application is virtually finalised for submission and will be made once discussions with the main landowner affected by section B in relation to the inclusion of particular accommodation works are concluded.
- 5.4 Four individual planning applications are to be submitted (Section A, section C and section B split into two components – the A602/A119 roundabout plus the off line section) with a common Environment Statement. This requirements was the result of legal advice taken by HCC Planning in relation to the ‘cumulative’ effect of the scheme which, whilst a series of a packages, provides maximum benefit when all packages are delivered. Submission of individual applications has been agreed with the Planning Authority and facilitates individual progression of the project packages.
- 5.5 Section B requires land acquisition form the Woodhall Estate, owned by the Abel Smith family. Collaborative scheme development has been ongoing with the Estate for some months but there are two key points to be resolved. A mutually satisfactory position is being sought prior to submission of the Planning Application

## Procurement

- 5.6 A series of procurement workshops are considering the appropriate procurement routes for the scheme. Aspects being considered include – “OJEU” vs Framework options; different framework options for individual packages; network management views on delivery along a linear route; framework supervision resourcing.
- 5.7 The Eastern Highways Framework 2 arrangements provide an opportunity to commission “ECI” contractor input on buildability aspects of different scheme delivery packages which will be pursued to inform a final procurement strategy. This procurement strategy is being finalised and will be reported to the LTB following its approval through the project governance.

7 APRIL 2016

---

**6 Metropolitan Line Extension**

6.1 LU are currently finalising the award of the Stage 2 (Construction) contract, which requires a TfL Board decision to be progressed. As such, their current delivery programme is heavily influence by the Mayoral election purdah period, as there are no TfL Board meetings between late March and early July.

6.2 LU reported Programme –

- Mayoral Election Purdah commenced 21 March 2016
- TfL Board Approval July 2016
- Stage 2 Contract Award August 2016
- Start on Site Sept 2016
  - *Viaduct Civils Complete* Jan 2018
  - *Cassiobridge Station Complete* Feb 2019
  - *Vicarage Road Station Complete* Mar 2019
  - *Signal Installation Complete* Jan 2020
  - *Trial Running starts* July 2020
- Delivery into Service (DIS) Dec 2020

6.3 The HCC-led local consortium, including HCC, Herts LEP and Watford Council, will make a cash contribution of £125.35m to the project over the period 2015/16 - 2020/21. This contribution will be made in line with an agreed funding profile as set out in schedule 2 of the HCC/TfL Funding Agreement. £20.5m will be passed to TfL in 2016/17 and arrangements are in place for the first of two payments of £10.25m to be made on April 1<sup>st</sup> as required by the Agreement. The Funding Agreement has provision of a renegotiation of the funding profile should the delivery programme for the scheme be delayed.