

# HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT BODY

13 October 2016

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

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### 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) in the period 2014/15-2019/20.

### 2 Background

2.1 As part of the current SEP, three projects designated as 'Major Schemes' are programmed for delivery within the period 2014/15-2019/20– Croxley Rail Link; A120 Bypass (Little Hadham) and Flood Alleviation Scheme and A602 Improvements (Stevenage to/from Ware).

2.2 A programme update report was presented to the July 2016 meeting of the LTB. This report provides an update on progress since then and identifies the timescales for the next stage of Gateway Approvals for the A602 Improvements (Sections A and C) and the A120 Bypass projects.

### 3. Recommendation

3.1 It is requested that the Board note this report.

#### Scheme Updates

### 4 A120 Hadham Bypass

#### Programme Overview

4.1 The current programmed dates for project gateways are as previously reported –

- Gateway 4 (Conditional Approval) – June 2018
- Gateway 5 (Final Approval) – July 2018
- Gateway 6 (Completion) – October 2019

4.2 The above dates assume a Public Inquiry (PI) will be required and will take place in Spring / Summer 2017. A six month period has been allowed in the programme post PI for a decision on the inquiry, to allow for completion of the Inspectors Report and for consideration by the Secretary of State.

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Calendar Years	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Stage 4 – Design, Planning Application & CPO	—————				
PI process (if triggered)		—————			
SoS decision / Challenge period			—————		
Gateway 4 – Conditional Approval			★		
Stage 5 – Procurement	—————				
Gateway 5 – Final Approval			★		
Stage 6 – Delivery			—————		
Gateway 6 – Completion				★	
Stage 7 – Maintain and Operate				—————→	

- 4.3 The making of any Compulsory Purchase Orders required to secure the land for the implementation of the project will immediately follow the SoS decision.
- 4.4 The Contract procurement will be run in parallel with the PI decision period to ensure tender prices for the contract can be delivered soon after a SoS decision, thereby enabling Full Approval to be sought from DfT of to facilitate release of the funding to the LEP.
- 4.5 Construction start date is now programmed for summer 2018 with current contractor discussions indicating a build period of 15-18 months.

## Progress Update

- 4.6 Following submission of the planning application in late 2015 the application process was paused to enable a technical review review of the application in light of consultee comments relating to potential environmental impacts of the project.
- 4.7 Additional environmental surveys have been undertaken to determine the appropriate type and extent of measures required to mitigate the scheme impact on a rare bat species.
- 4.8 An addendum to the planning application outlining those changes will be submitted during October. This will include some design changes and increases in mitigation measures which address concerns regarding appropriate bat crossings of the proposed bypass as well as some concerns raised by local residents regarding visual impact.
- 4.9 Subject to feedback received during the consultation to be undertaken by the planning authority, it is anticipated that the planning application will be considered by HCC Development Control Committee within the next two months.

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- 4.10 Negotiations with directed affected landowners are continuing with Heads of Terms regarding acquisition / accommodation works now being drawn up. Draft CPOs will be published shortly after the completion of the planning consultation process.
- 4.11 The detailed design of the scheme is progressing on programme to a design freeze by the end of 2016/17. Additional onsite advance surveys have taken place including archaeological trial trenching and geophysical surveys to assist in determine the underlying conditions beneath the flood alleviation structures.
- 4.12 An “Industry Day” (Pre-Procurement Market Engagement event) was held on 30<sup>th</sup> September with over 70 attendees including a number of local and national construction organisations including, among others, BAM Nuttal, Balfour Beatty, Carillion, Graham Construction, Hochtief, Jacksons, Kier, McAlpine, Morgan Sindall, Skanska and Volker Fitzpatrick.

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5 A602 Improvements

Scheme sections



Programme Overview

5.1 The current programmed dates for project gateways are –

- Gateway 4 (Conditional Approval)
  - Sections A & C - Nov 2016
  - Section B - June 2017  
*or - Nov 2017 (If PI process req'd)*
- Gateway 5 (Final Approval)
  - Sections A & C – Apr 2017
  - Section B - Feb 2018
- Gateway 6 (Completion)
  - Sections A - Aug 2017
  - Section C – July 2019
  - Section B - Nov 2017

5.2 The above dates assume the earliest delivery dates for Sections A and C can be achieved, which will require some flexibility in funding allocations from the Herts LEP across financial years.

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Calendar Years	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Sections A &amp; C</b>				
Stage 4 – Design & Planning Application	██████████			
Gateway 4 – Conditional Approval	★			
Stage 5 – Procurement	████			
Gateway 5 – Final Approval	★			
Stage 6 – Delivery		██████ A ██████ C		
<b>Sections B</b>				
Stage 4 – Design, Planning Application & Land Acquisition	██████████			
PI Process (if triggered)		██████		
Gateway 4 – Conditional Approval		★		
Stage 5 – Procurement			██████	
Gateway 5 – Final Approval			★	
Stage 6 – Delivery			██████████ B	

## Current position & Next Steps

### Sections A & C

- 5.3 Section A (Hertford Rd junction o/s Stevenage) was granted planning permission at the HCC Development Control (DC) Committee on 22 Sept. Section C will be considered by DC Committee on 19th October 2016.
- 5.4 Subject to the granting of planning permission for section C, both of these sections will then have reached Gateway 4, which marks the completion of detailed design and the attainment of all necessary approvals prior to moving into the procurement phase (Stage 5).
- 5.5 An evidence pack will be prepared for consideration by the LTB confirming that the requirements of Gateway 4 have been met for these sections. It is anticipated this will be made available to the LTB in November. The project team can facilitate a briefing to Board Members to clarify any matters arising if necessary.
- 5.5 Gateway 4 is referred to in the LTB Assurance Framework as “**Conditional Approval (CA)**”. Historically, CA was an interim stage appropriate in schemes where a commitment to funding is sought to facilitate continued financial investment in a project where complex or lengthy procurement procedures need to be completed.
- 5.6 In the case of these sections of the A602 Improvements however, the overall funding allocation to the project has been identified and confirmed through the LTB, LEP SEP and Growth Deal Funding arrangements and as such no further commitment to funding is needed at this stage.

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- 5.7 The procurement process will utilise the existing Eastern Highways Framework 2 to procure an appropriate contractor for both sections, and thus is established mechanism and can be completed in a short period.
- 5.8 The procurement process is currently programmed to take place in February/March 2017. The current intention is to procure both sections A and C in a single contract, with the contractor developing their own delivery programme.
- 5.9 Following evaluation of the tenders, a request for Full Approval (Gateway 5) will be sought from the LTB, thereby enabling award of a construction contract. This is anticipated to be bought to the LTB in April 2017. The works will commence on site soon after that date.
- 5.10 **Section B** requires land acquisition from the Woodhall Estate. The planning application is virtually finalised for submission and will be made once discussions with the main landowner in relation to the inclusion of particular accommodation works are concluded.
- 5.11 A mutually satisfactory position is being sought prior to submission of the Planning Application with the aim to acquire the necessary land for the scheme through negotiation, thereby avoiding the requirement for a CPO process.
- 5.12 The current programme anticipates submission the Section B application in Dec / Jan 2016, but remains partially dependant on the satisfactory completion of the land owner negotiations.
- 5.13 The procurement strategy is being finalised which will determine if a contractor for section B should be sought via the EHF2 framework or an "OJEU" process as a single contract. It is anticipated that works could commence on site in May 2018 with a contract period of around 12 months.

**6 Metropolitan Line Extension**

- 6.1 It is understood that the TfL process to obtain Board approval for a Stage 2 (construction) contract has been delayed. A revised procurement strategy for the main civils and structures contract was considered and endorsed in mid-September by the (internal) London Underground Board. The project team are now exploring this preferred option in more detail to enable the overall programme to be updated.
- 6.2 The detailed procurement strategy for the main works contracts will need to go through TfL approval processes before the appropriate construction contract(s) can be awarded. LU have indicated that no land will be acquired under the TWA Order this year whilst the finalisation of the procurement strategy is progressed.
- 6.3 LU do not therefore have a confirmed date for the start of the main works on site, although they still aiming for delivery into service of the Metropolitan Line Extension in late 2020.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 £20.5m has been passed to TfL in 2016/17 , with £10.25m passed across on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, following the initial £10.25m paid on April 1<sup>st</sup> as required by the Agreement.
- 6.6 The Funding Agreement has provision of a renegotiation of the funding profile should the delivery programme for the scheme be significantly delayed.