

Section 48 Planning Act 2008

Regulation 4 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme

Notice Publicising a Proposed Application for a Development Consent Order

HIGHWAYS ENGLAND COMPANY LIMITED of Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ ('the Applicant') proposes to make an application ('the Application') under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 to the Secretary of State for Transport for a Development Consent Order.

The Application is for the proposed A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme in Essex, England.

The proposed scheme's main proposals are, in summary:

- creation of two bypasses, one between junctions 22 to 23 and another between junctions 24 to 25
- widening of the dual carriageway from two to three lanes in each direction from Hatfield Peverel to Marks Tey
- improvements to junctions 19 and 25
- construction of new junctions 21, 22 and 24 providing access to the A12 both northbound and southbound
- removal of existing junctions 20a, 20b and 23
- provide new and improved existing walking, cycling and horse riding routes
- provide new local roads access and improve existing access to the proposed junctions
- provide environmental mitigation
- improve the safety performance of the road especially at the junctions and slip roads
- provide utility diversions where necessary
- remove all direct private access onto the A12 and redirect access via local roads and junctions
- temporary construction areas and access roads, together with works to secure vehicular and/or pedestrian means of access including the creation of new tracks, footpaths, and/ or widening, upgrades, creation of bell mouths, creation of temporary slip roads and improvements to existing tracks, footpaths and roads
- permanent and/or temporary compulsory acquisition (if required) of land and/or rights for the scheme
- overriding easements and other rights over or affecting land for the scheme
- the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the scheme including, amongst others, legislation relating to compulsory purchase
- such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, permits or consents as necessary and/or convenient

The proposed scheme includes changes to a number of existing utilities. These changes include the diversion of two high pressure gas pipelines operated by Cadent Gas Limited. The first high

pressure gas pipeline is located between Springfield in Chelmsford and Little Braxted running along the southern side of the A12 within the local authority areas of Chelmsford and Braintree. The second is located between the Witham Bypass and Little Braxted running along the south of the A12 also in the local authority area of Braintree (the Diversions). To the extent that the Diversions satisfy the criteria to be considered an NSIP under section 20 of the Planning Act 2008, the Diversions will be treated as NSIPs in their own right.

Even though the Diversions may be treated as NSIPs in their own right, as they are part of the proposed scheme they will form part of the application for development consent which will be made by Highways England to the Secretary of State for Transport. To the extent the Diversions are an NSIP in their own right they would also be considered against the relevant energy National Policy Statements within the application.

The proposed scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment development ('EIA development'), as defined by The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. An Environmental Statement will be submitted as part of the Application. A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) forms part of the consultation material.

Consultation on the proposals will take place from **22 June 2021** to **16 August 2021**. The best way to find out about the proposed scheme is to visit our website (www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A12) where we will have an online exhibition and hold webinars. Please also visit our website for details of any public events that we will be hosting should the Government COVID-19 restrictions allow these to take place during the consultation period. We will also publish on our website any pick-up locations where printed copies of the brochure, response form and memory sticks with all the consultation materials can be collected, provided this is possible in line with any Government COVID-19 restrictions.

Copies of the consultation materials including all plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed scheme will be available online free of charge from 22 June 2021 until at least the end of the consultation period at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A12.

An electronic copy of the consultation documents can be supplied free of charge on a memory stick. A paper copy of the consultation documents can also be supplied, but there will be a reasonable charge for paper copies to cover the cost of printing and postage up to a charge of £220 for a complete set of documents.

Please contact Highways England using the email address, postal address or telephone number provided below to make a request or for any questions about the consultation materials:

- **Email:** A12chelmsfordA120wide@highwaysengland.co.uk
- **Telephone:** 0300 123 5000
- **Post:** FREEPOST A12 widening

Any person may comment on the proposals or otherwise respond to this publicity. Responses must be received between **22 June 2021 and 16 August 2021**. A consultation response form is available as part of the consultation materials available online. When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Please also confirm the nature of your interest in the proposed scheme. Please supply any response to:

- **Email:** A12chelmsfordA120wide@highwaysengland.co.uk
- **Online:** www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A12
- **Address:** FREEPOST A12 widening

Responses must be received no later than 23:59pm on the 16 August 2021.

Highways England will consider and have regard to all responses when developing the proposed scheme and the Application for a Development Consent Order once consultation has closed. Responses will form the basis of a Consultation Report that will be submitted with the Application and is one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the Application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report.

If you would like further information about this notice, the consultation or the proposed scheme, please contact the project team by using one of the contact methods provided above.

Shah Hussain, A12 Senior Project Manager, Highways England, 22 June 2021