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EAST ANGLIA

The importance of the upgrades at Ely and Haughley Junctions

1. **Ely Junctions**:

- **Strategic Rail Connection**: Ely Junction serves as a critical rail connection in the United Kingdom. It links five major rail lines connecting **Norwich, Ipswich, Cambridge, Peterborough,** and **King's Lynn**. This strategic location facilitates efficient transportation across these regions and enables seamless travel for passengers and freight services.

- **Capacity Constraints**: Currently, Ely Junction operates at full capacity, limiting the potential for growth in passenger and cross-country freight routes. By improving the junction, more trains can run through it, alleviating congestion, and allowing for increased services.

- **Economic Impact**: The proposed improvements to Ely Junction are estimated to cost around £500 million and Benefit Cost Ration of a remarkably high 4.89 to 1. These upgrades would support sustainable, long-term economic growth by enhancing rail freight connections particularly between the **Port of Felixstowe**, the **West and East Midlands, the Northwest, Yorkshire, and the Northeast**. Additionally, more frequent passenger services, including those between **King's Lynn and London**, **Ipswich / Cambridge and Peterborough would be possible.**

- **Reducing Congestion and Carbon Emissions**: Investment in Ely Junction will have a positive impact on communities across the UK. It will reduce congestion, boost trade, level up localities, increase passenger services, and contribute to cutting carbon emissions.

2. **Haughley Junction**:

- **Connectivity and Routes**: Haughley Junction serves as a crucial link between the **London, Chelmsford, Colchester, Ipswich and Norwich mainline** and the line that runs to destinations such as **Bury St Edmunds**, **Newmarket, Cambridge, Peterborough,** and the **West and East Midlands, the Northwest, Yorkshire, the Northeast.**

- **Freight Capacity**: The junction plays a vital role in facilitating freight transportation. However, due to capacity constraints imposed by the current nature of the junction, more freight trains cannot run efficiently. Upgrading Haughley Junction would allow more freight trains to operate.

- **Reducing Road Congestion and Emissions**: Enhancing Haughley Junction's capacity could save **150,000 lorry journeys per year** on the A14, benefiting both the environment and road congestion.

- **Economic Impact**: Investment in Haughley Junction is expected to boost economic growth in the East of England. By improving rail connectivity, businesses can thrive, and communities can benefit.

- **Carbon Emission Reduction**: Upgrading the junctions at Haughley and Ely could prevent **1.7 million tonnes of CO2 emissions** annually by reducing road traffic.

In summary, both Ely and Haughley Junction upgrades represent significant investments in the future of rail travel. They enhance connectivity, efficiency, and safety for both passengers and freight services, benefiting the region and the entire country.

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About Railfuture

Railfuture is the UK's leading independent organisation campaigning for better rail services for passengers and freight. **Railfuture** is a voluntary group representing rail users, with 20,000 affiliated and individual members.
Railfuture Ltd is a not-for-profit Company Limited by Guarantee.
This response is being given behalf of our large membership throughout Cambridgeshire.

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