



9th October 2013

Attached is Railfuture East Anglia's response to the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon improvement scheme public consultation on route options.

Regards,

Peter

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**Railfuture response to:
A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon improvement scheme
Public consultation on route options**

9th October 2013

The Consultation

The “Proposal for improving the A14 trunk road between Cambridge and Huntingdon plus widening works on the A1 between Alconbury and Brampton” and associated consultation is described here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/a14-cambridge-to-huntingdon-improvement-scheme>

Railfuture East Anglia Response

Whilst Railfuture supports direct safely improvement work to the A14, the idea of investing in this road is contrary to the objectives listed in the first question of the survey, namely whether the proposal would meet the objectives of:

- combating congestion
- unlocking growth
- connecting people
- improving safety
- creating a positive legacy

Railfuture believes that removing this bottleneck will only encourage more road traffic pushing more congestion onto other roads and places such as Cambridge. Road building is certainly not creating a positive legacy; there is a strong trend towards people travelling by rail and this should be developed rather than trying to encourage this growth back onto roads.

Apart from direct safely improvements, the objective of improving safely would be much better achieved by moving journeys onto fundamentally safer forms of transport such as rail.

A positive legacy of combating congestion, unlocking growth and connecting people should be achieved by alternative rail schemes such as:

1. An upgrade of the railway from Felixstowe to the East Coast Main line and on to Nuneaton to give much improved access to the Midlands and North to take significant number of lorries off the A14.
2. Upgrading line speeds and frequencies of the rail services from East Anglia to the East Coast Main line and the Midlands and North to encourage the increasing trend of people wanting to travel by rail rather than road.
3. Construction/reopening of the East West Rail link from Cambridge to Bedford with the possibility of also linking this to faster service from Peterborough and the North. This is described in detail in Railfuture's East West Rail Briefing for Cambridgeshire which can be downloaded here:

<http://www.railfuture.org.uk/East+Anglia+East+West+Rail+Briefing+for+Cambridgeshire>

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