

A30/A303/A358 Improvement Project

We are leading a multi-agency group of partners campaigning for improvements to the A303/A30/A358 road corridor between Taunton, Honiton and Amesbury.

Specific economic benefits from A303/A30/A358 improvements for Somerset potentially include:

- Strengthening Somerset's inward investment attractiveness by reducing journey times to markets.
- Helping to strengthen and develop local supply chains - including benefits for the aerospace and advanced engineering sector clustered around Yeovil and AgustaWestland.
- Making Somerset (and neighbouring areas) more accessible for tourists (particularly opportunities to further Somerset's strengths as a short break destination from London and the south east).

Working closely with a project group including Wiltshire, Devon County and Dorset County Councils and the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, the local authorities are campaigning for a whole route improvement of this important road corridor. An outline economic case has been developed to outline the key economic benefits of improving the whole route and to provide the economic evidence to be used for campaigning for investment in the route. The key economic benefits for the region identified over 60 years included:

- £41.6bn of economic benefit (Gross Value Added)
- 21,400 jobs
- A further £21.2bn of economic benefits including tax generation, welfare payment savings, disposable income and tourism spend.

For more details, see the project documents in the Information and resources section.

On 1 December 2014 Government announced its Road Investment Strategy. This included a £2 billion commitment to turn the A303 into a new strategic corridor to the south west over the next 14 years and create a new Expressway corridor into the region transforming connectivity to and from the south west. The result will be the biggest increase of connection for the region since the opening of the M5, meaning easier journeys and more opportunities for growth.

The Road Investment Strategy also included a commitment to start on three improvement schemes between 2015/16 and 2020/21.

The three improvement schemes are described below:

- [**A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down \(Stonehenge\) dualling consultation information**](#) – construction of a twin-bored tunnel at least 1.8 miles long as the road passes Stonehenge and a bypass for Winterbourne Stoke to link the existing dual carriageway section around Amesbury with the dual carriageway at Berwick Down.
- [**A303 Sparkford to Ilchester dualling consultation information**](#) – dualling of the 3 mile single carriageway section of the A303 between Sparkford and Ilchester.
- [**A358 Taunton to Southfields dualling consultation information**](#) – creating a dual carriageway link from the M5 at Taunton to the A303.

These schemes will be developed and constructed by Highways England. The Council has now submitted responses to Highways England's non-statutory consultations on options for the Sparkford to Ilchester Improvement and M5 to Southfields Improvement

Please contact us for more information. General enquiries and electronic documents are free but there may be a charge made for printed copies of documents where these are available.

Contacts

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