

A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements

Preferred route announcement



Scheme location



Introduction

We are proposing to improve the A2 junctions at Bean and Ebbsfleet. The improvements are committed within the Road Investment Strategy, subject to other financial contributions from local developers. The improvements are considered necessary to support the level of development proposed for Kent Thameside.

Why is the scheme needed?

Without improvements to these junctions, significant future traffic congestion will result, which will have an adverse impact on the A2 and will constrain economic development and housing growth in the area.

The scheme's benefits

- Support economic development including jobs and housing growth in North Kent.
- Increases capacity on the road network to accommodate future growth.

- Smooths traffic and improves journey times at both junctions.
- Increases capacity for all road users without endangering safety.
- Improves safety for all road users.
- Provides better facilities for non-motorised users such as cyclists, pedestrians and equestrians.
- Provides better access to public transport.
- Minimise environmental impact.

Public consultation

We held a public consultation between 18 January 2017 and 1 March 2017 to gather feedback on our proposals. The consultation involved public exhibitions and presentations around Dartford and Gravesend, a website with information about the project, and information delivered to over 74,000 homes in the area. The consultation materials and the supporting technical reports set out the rationale for having one proposal for each junction.

We held 5 public events for local residents and stakeholders. Members of the public and organisations were invited to comment on a variety of aspects of the project, including the junction improvements at Bean, the junction improvements at Ebbsfleet, and the scheme overall.

Responses to public consultation

A total of 169 responses to the consultation were received. The majority of people agreed with the need to improve the junctions and supported our proposals. One of the most common concerns expressed at the public consultation was that the consultation included only one proposal at each junction. However, our assessments have shown that only Option 5 at Bean and Option 1 at Ebbsfleet can deliver the objectives and provide the best value for money within the scheme budget.

Comments from stakeholders

Stakeholders reiterated the concerns expressed during the public consultation and commented on the use of traffic lights at the roundabouts. As a result, we will continue to review the use of traffic lights as the scheme progresses.

There were concerns that The London Resort development (formerly known as London Paramount) was excluded from our scheme assessments. The London Resort still needs to go through the statutory planning process and we will continue to collaborate with the developers, the London Resort Company Holdings, on the development of the entertainment centre.

The preferred route

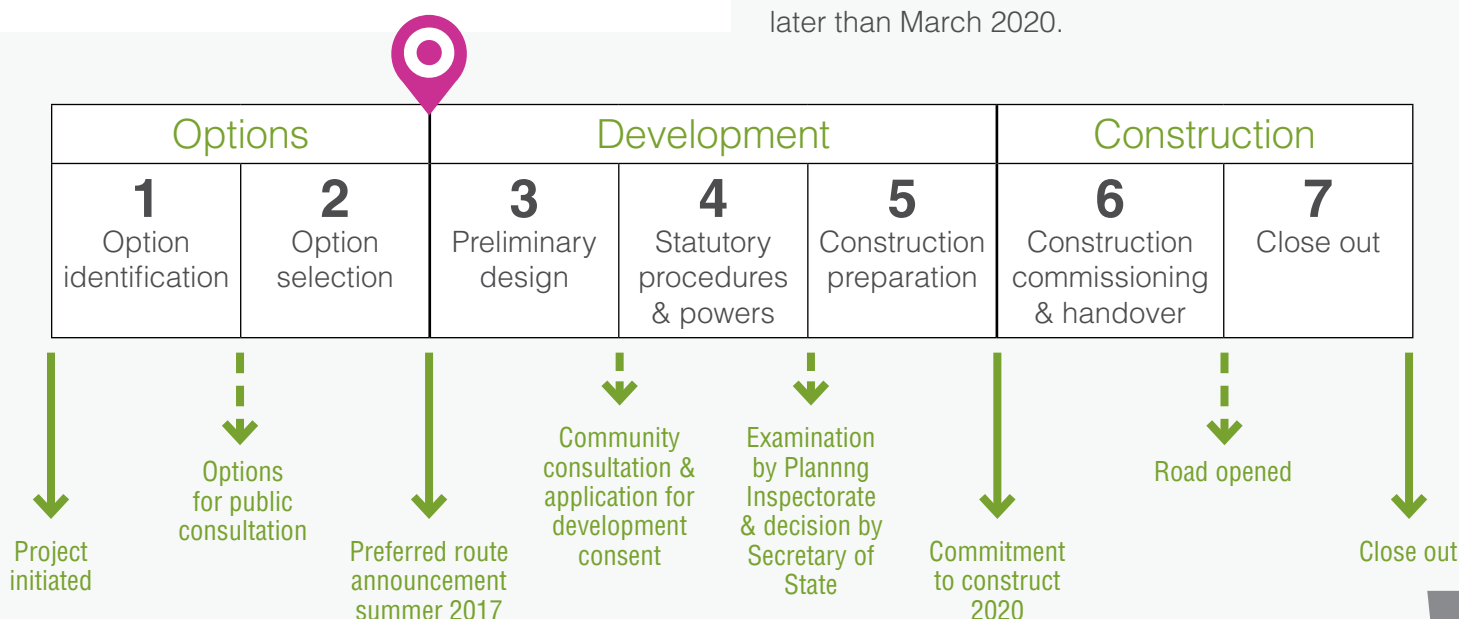
The options presented at consultation will be taken forward as the preferred route. Our assessments show that the scheme will improve journey times, improve safety and support local economic growth.

Next steps

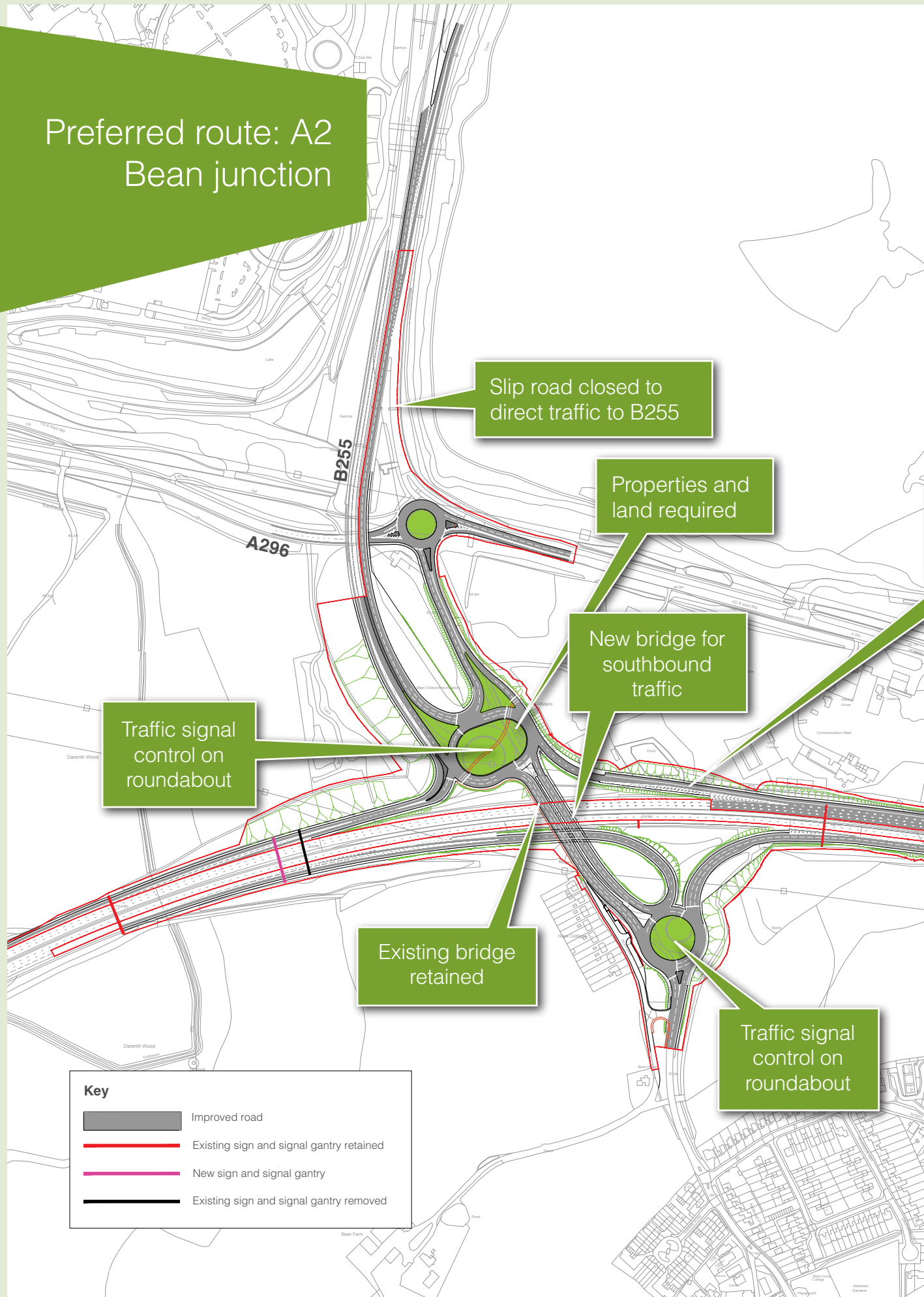
The timeline below shows what will happen at each stage of the scheme. We are currently at the end of stage 2. Following the announcement of the preferred route, we will carry out surveys and investigations to allow us to design the scheme in more detail.

There will be another opportunity for you to have your say on the designs and plans for this project with a second public consultation planned for early next year.

We currently expect work to start on site no later than March 2020.



Preferred route: A2 Bean junction



The majority of people agreed with our proposals to improve the Bean junction.

Concerns were raised relating to the removal of the slip road from the B255 to the A296. As a result, we will reconsider the link between the B255 and the A296 during the preliminary design.

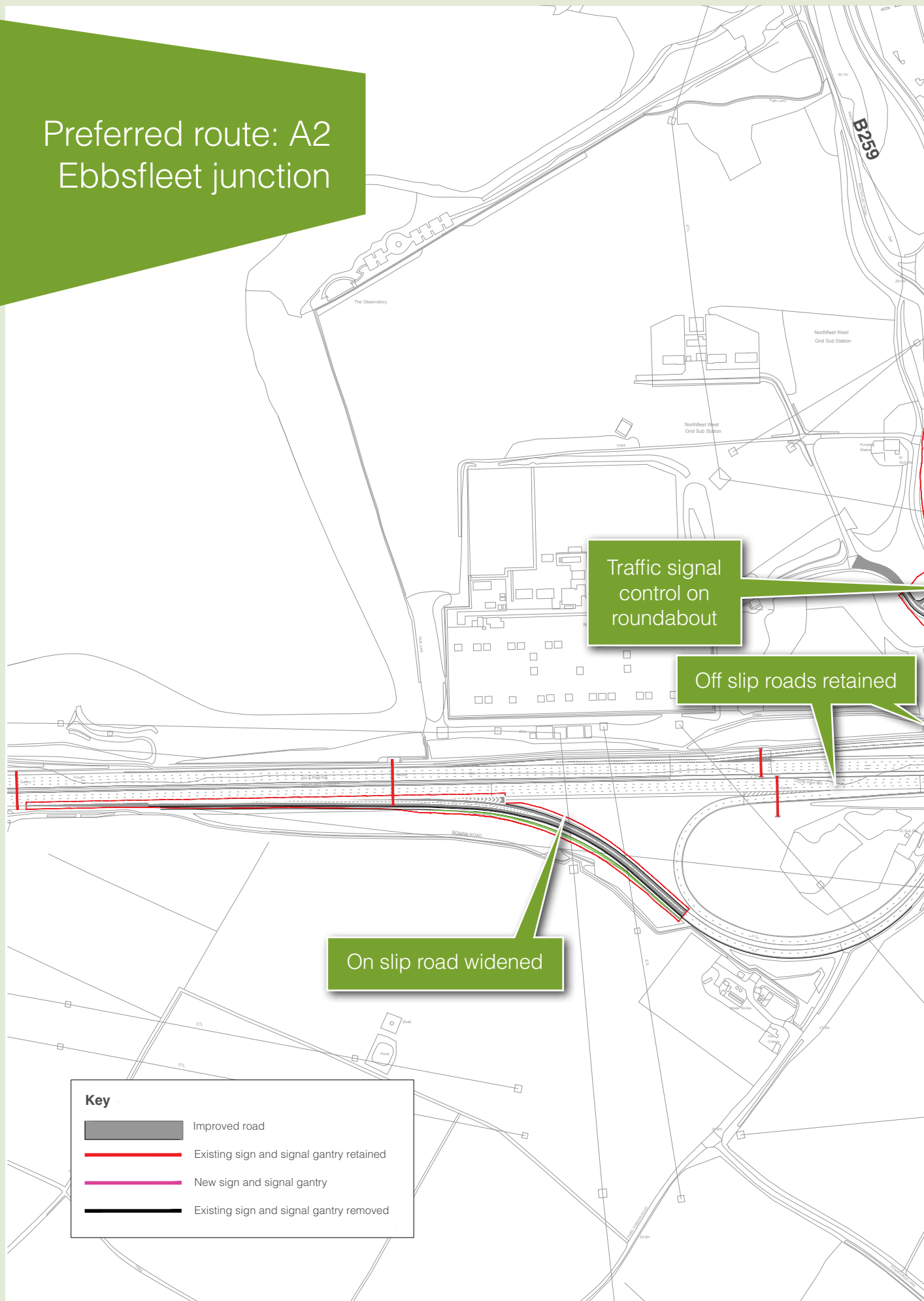


Additional slip road for eastbound traffic

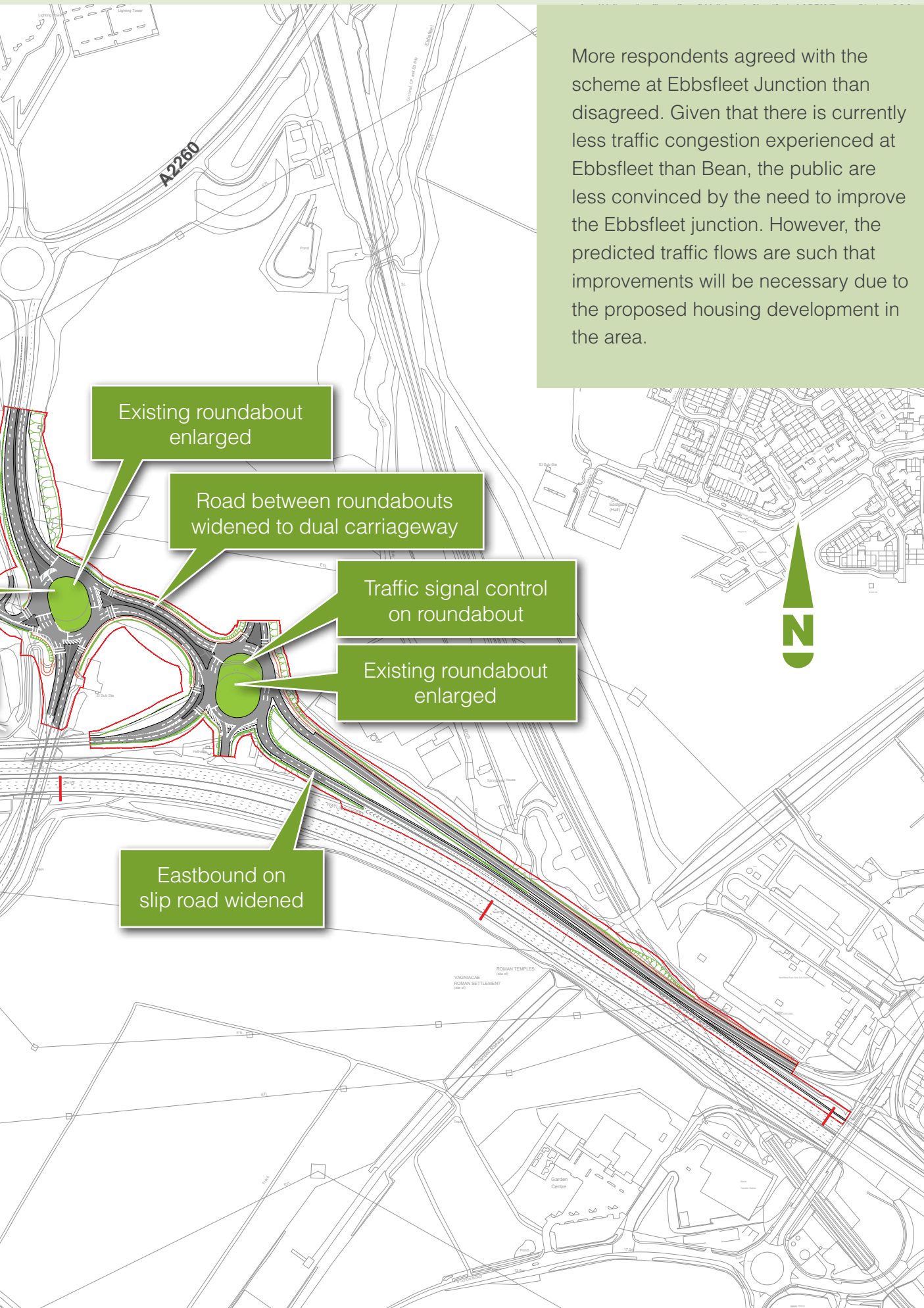
Hard shoulder removed to provide narrow lanes



Preferred route: A2 Ebbsfleet junction



More respondents agreed with the scheme at Ebbsfleet Junction than disagreed. Given that there is currently less traffic congestion experienced at Ebbsfleet than Bean, the public are less convinced by the need to improve the Ebbsfleet junction. However, the predicted traffic flows are such that improvements will be necessary due to the proposed housing development in the area.



If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

Further information

Information about the project, and to receive updates about the scheme via our newsletter, are available online at:

www.highways.gov.uk/a2be

You can let us know your views or questions by contacting the project team using the following email and address:

- email:
A2BeanandEbbsfleetJunctionsImprovements@highwaysengland.co.uk
- write to: **Freepost A2 Bean & Ebbsfleet junction improvements**
- call: **0300 123 5000** (24 hours)
- website: **www.highways.gov.uk/a2be**

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