

Oxford-Cambridge Expressway (November 2018)

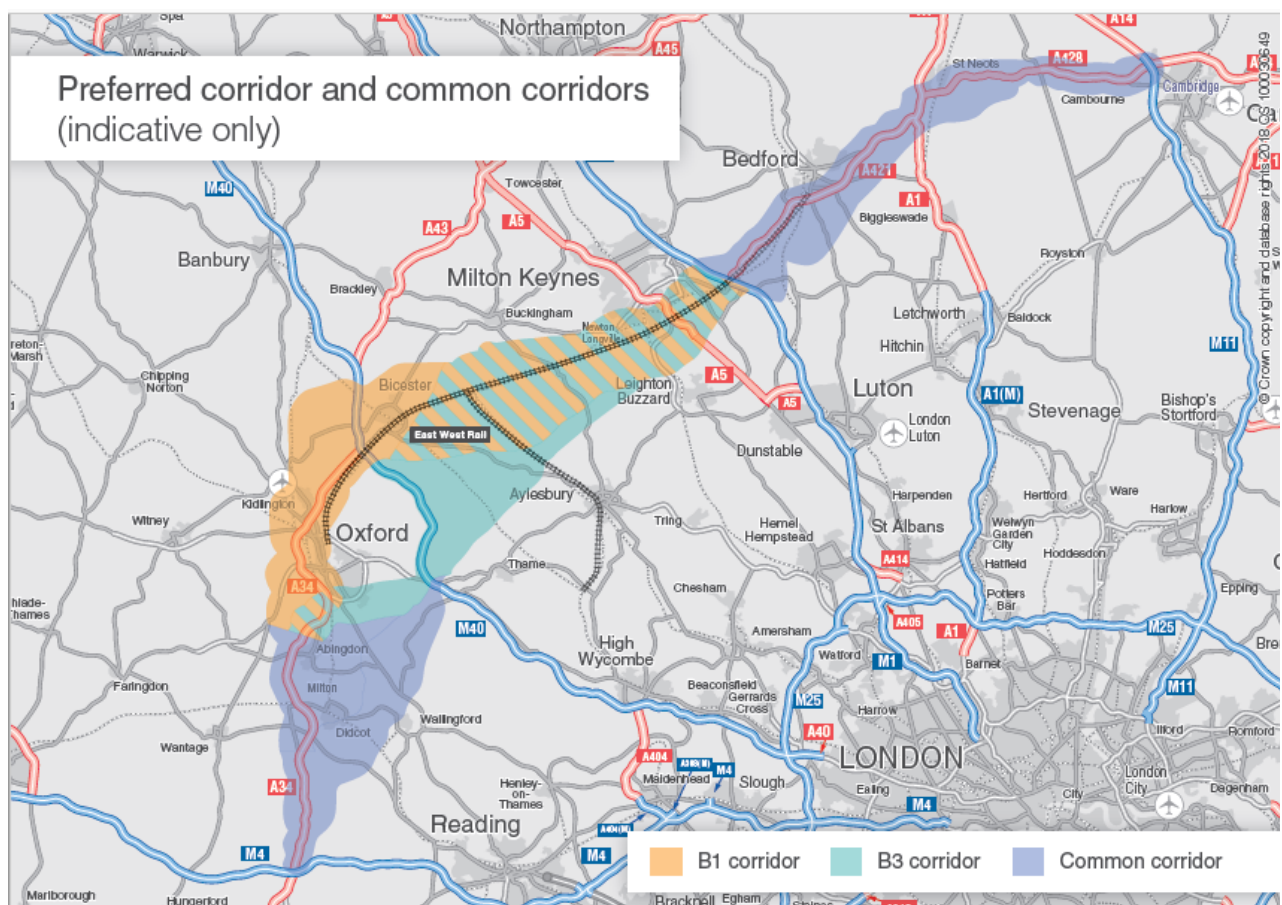
What is the Oxford – Cambridge Expressway?

The Expressway is a proposed strategic road between Oxford and Cambridge (via Milton Keynes). The scheme is managed by Highways England.

What do we currently know?

In September 2018 it was announced that corridor B had been selected as the preferred corridor for the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. This was the central of the three proposed corridors. Two sub-corridors within the preferred corridor are being taken forward to develop viable route options (corridors B1 and B3). There is currently no route.

The preferred corridor runs through Aylesbury Vale, a map showing the preferred corridor can be seen below:



Where can you find information?

As a way of providing the public with information Highways England has developed a webpage for the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway.

www.highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway/

The webpage is being updated by Highways England as the Expressway project continues.

What are the timescales for the project?

Highways England's indicative timescale for the Expressway are shown below:

- September 2018 – Corridor decision
- Autumn 2019 – Route options for public consultation
- Autumn 2020 – Preferred route announcement
- 2020 – 2025 – Consultation and preparation of orders, Development Consent Order application, Examination by Planning Inspectorate and decision.
- 2025 – Start of construction
- 2030 – Indicative date for road opening

Expressway Frequently Asked Questions

Where will the Expressway go?

Currently Highways England have announced a preferred corridor only, no route has been announced. Corridor B (the central of three potential corridors) was announced as the preferred corridor in September 2018.

Will my constituents be directly affected?

Currently, there has only been a preferred corridor decision for the Expressway, potential route options will not be known until Autumn 2019 with a final announcement on route the following year Autumn 2020. Therefore, it is currently unknown exactly where the Expressway will run and direct impacts on individual constituents at this time.

When will the road be open?

Highways England's current indicative timeline suggests that construction of the road will be from 2025 onwards, with a proposed opening date of 2030. Highways England will still need to pass project milestones in the development of the Expressway to progress the scheme.

What is an Expressway?

The current definition of an Expressway is:

"An A-road that is as well-designed as a motorway and is able to offer the same standard of journey to users. At a minimum, Expressways will be largely or entirely dual carriageway standard roads that are safe, well-built and resilient to delays, have junctions that are largely or entirely grade separated, include modern safety measures and construction standards and technology to manage traffic and provide better information to drivers"

The Department for Transport is continuing to consider how and where the concept of an Expressway can be applied.

Where can I find out more information?

Highways England has a website and are uploading information as the project continues:

www.highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway/

When can I have my say?

The first point of public consultation is Autumn 2019. This will be consultation on the route options.

Highways England is undertaking engagement with Parish Councils prior to this and is keen to understand and gain local knowledge of constraints and opportunities to feed into the development of route options. A meeting for Parishes (within in the Expressway corridor) was held in November. There will potentially be future sessions in December for those outside of the corridor but with an interest in the Expressway (these are being considered/ organised by Highways England, however Buckinghamshire County Council has expressed that engagement with Parishes outside the corridor would be beneficial).

What is BCC's view and how are we engaging?

Buckinghamshire County Council had previously expressed a preference for the Southern Corridor (corridor A) based on the anticipated housing and economic growth along this corridor and the current lack of connectivity. The preferred corridor announced, therefore, does not match the BCC preferred corridor.

Buckinghamshire County Council is continuing to engage with Highways England and will move forwards and continue to work alongside colleagues and partners to ensure the best outcome for the people and businesses within Buckinghamshire.