highways england

Preferred route announcement
A27 East of Lewes
Improvement scheme

Autumn 2017

Introduction

A27 East of Lewes is a package of proposals up to £75m included in the Government's 2015 – 2020 Road Investment Strategy. It is part of a programme of investment across Sussex that includes schemes in Arundel and Worthing & Lancing.

Why is the scheme needed?

The A27 between Lewes and Polegate is around nine miles long. This stretch of the A27 suffers from congestion and as a consequence journey times are below average. The A27/A2270 Polegate junction is a key pinch point along with the roundabout at Berwick and the junction at Wilmington.

Safety is a problem throughout the corridor and accidents and incidents are a regular cause of long delays. Pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders are also not fully catered for with insufficient crossing points and poor east-west connections. The community and local businesses are suffering because of these long-standing issues.

Traffic contributes to noise on the A27 and surrounding roads, and there are 12 'noise important areas' in the study area. A number of studies have been carried out over the years, and we understand many people would like to see a major new bypass to the north of the A27. However, this study is looking at a range of smaller measures providing short to medium term improvements to give the best value for money at this time.

Scheme benefits

- Improve safety
- Improve journey time and reliability
- Support walking, cycling and other non-car travel
- Reduce community separation
- Improved connectivity to the South Downs National Park

Public consultation

We held a public consultation between 27 October and 8 December 2016 to gather feedback on our proposals and provide insight to help determine the preferred route. Ten public exhibitions were held to give people with an interest in the scheme the opportunity to see the proposals and discuss them with members of the project team. Information and questionnaires were available at the events, at six local libraries and community centres, and on the Highways England website.

A number of different options were considered in each location. Options were prioritised which addressed capacity, safety, sustainability, accessibility and offered localised benefits:

Selmeston village - road section

- Option 1 – new bypass to the far south of Selmeston
- Option 2 – new bypass close to Selmeston
- Option 6 – upgrade to existing A27 through Selmeston

Drusillas Roundabout

- A single option: a roundabout enlargement to improve traffic flows through the junction; provide suitable and convenient crossings; and improve safety

Wilmington junction

- Option 1 – junction improvement with pedestrian island
- Option 2 – junction improvement with pedestrian underpass

Polegate junction

- Option 10 – junction improvement
- Option 12 – junction improvement and railway bridge widening
- Option 13 – junction improvement, railway bridge widening and A27 dual carriageway from Polegate to Cophall Roundabout

Corridor-wide facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and other non-car users

- Upgrading current facilities between Glynde and Firle and providing a new pedestrian/cycle path between Firle and Polegate.

Responses to public consultation

A total of 1,140 questionnaire responses were received. Regarding current problems and issues, most respondents said they were very concerned about road safety and congestion or delays at junctions. The majority of respondents were very concerned about the future capacity for increased traffic from housing and economic development.

How we arrived at the preferred route

In determining the preferred route we assessed each option above in terms of its impacts, benefits, costs and value for money. We then took into account the feedback from the public consultation and looked at which combination of options we could afford within the budget of £75m.

The preferred route

Please see pages 4 to 7 for the annotated maps of each option.

Drusillas Roundabout widening will relieve congestion, improve journey times along the A27 and for north-south traffic. The crossing upgrade will improve local access and benefit horse riders.

Wilmington junction Option 7 was not in the original proposals and was included following comments from local residents during the public consultation. This option will improve access to and from the A27, reduce delays, and increase safety.

Gainsborough Lane junction has been included in the proposals following comments received from local residents during the public consultation. Providing a right turn facility will reduce community separation and improve access to and from the A27.

Polegate Option 13 will accommodate more traffic and provide safer pedestrian crossings.

Walking and cycling path will reduce delays from traffic overtaking cyclists, reduce the risk of accidents for walkers and cyclists, and reduce journey times between communities.

What happens next?

Following the announcement of the preferred route, we will carry out further surveys and investigations in order to design the scheme in more detail. We will also hold further public information exhibitions in 2018.

Further information

More information about the scheme including the full public consultation report is available at www.highways.gov.uk/A27EastofLewes. You can also register for email updates about the project.

If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact the project team:

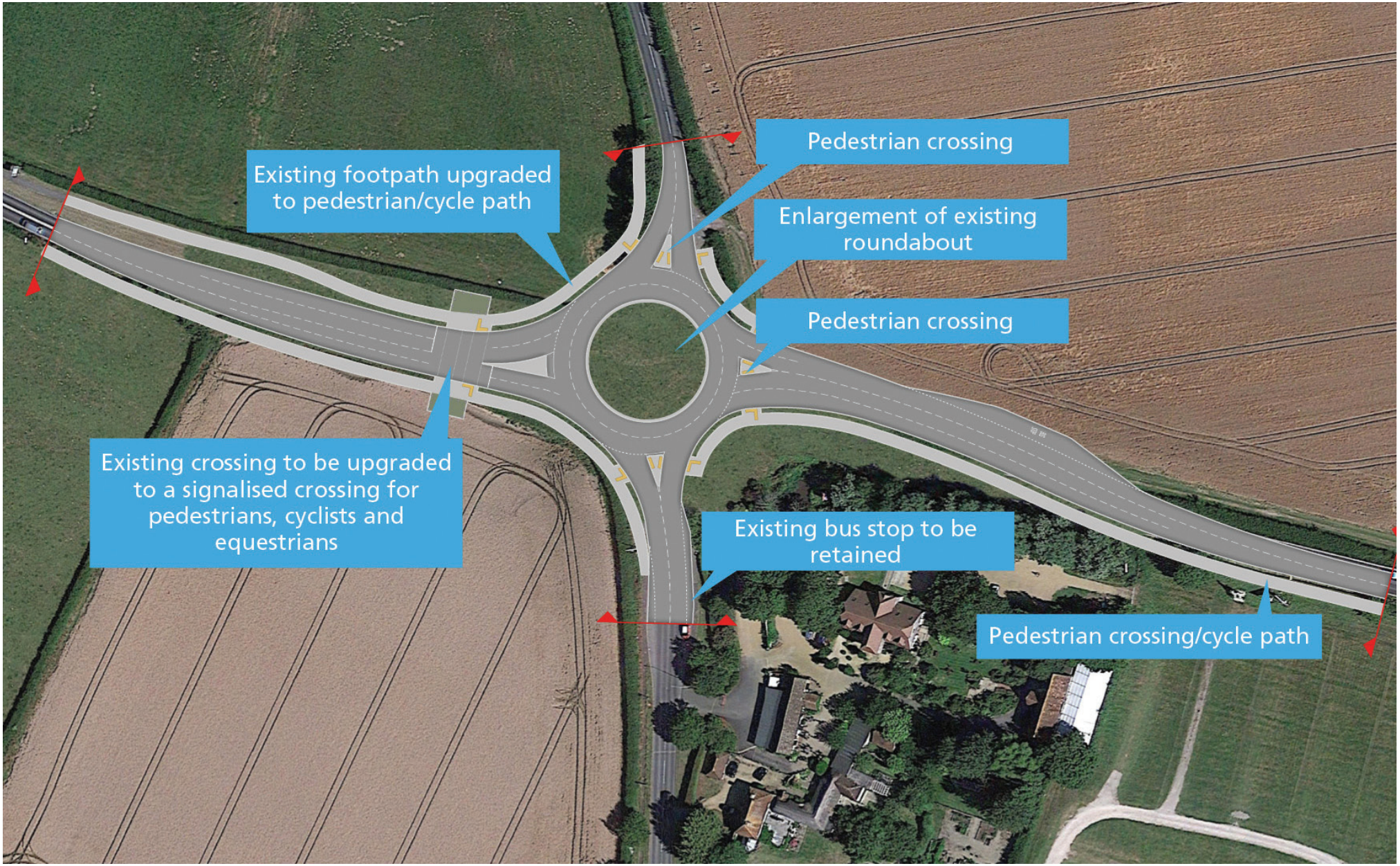
Call: 0300 123 5000 (24 hours)

Email: A27EastofLewes@highwaysengland.co.uk

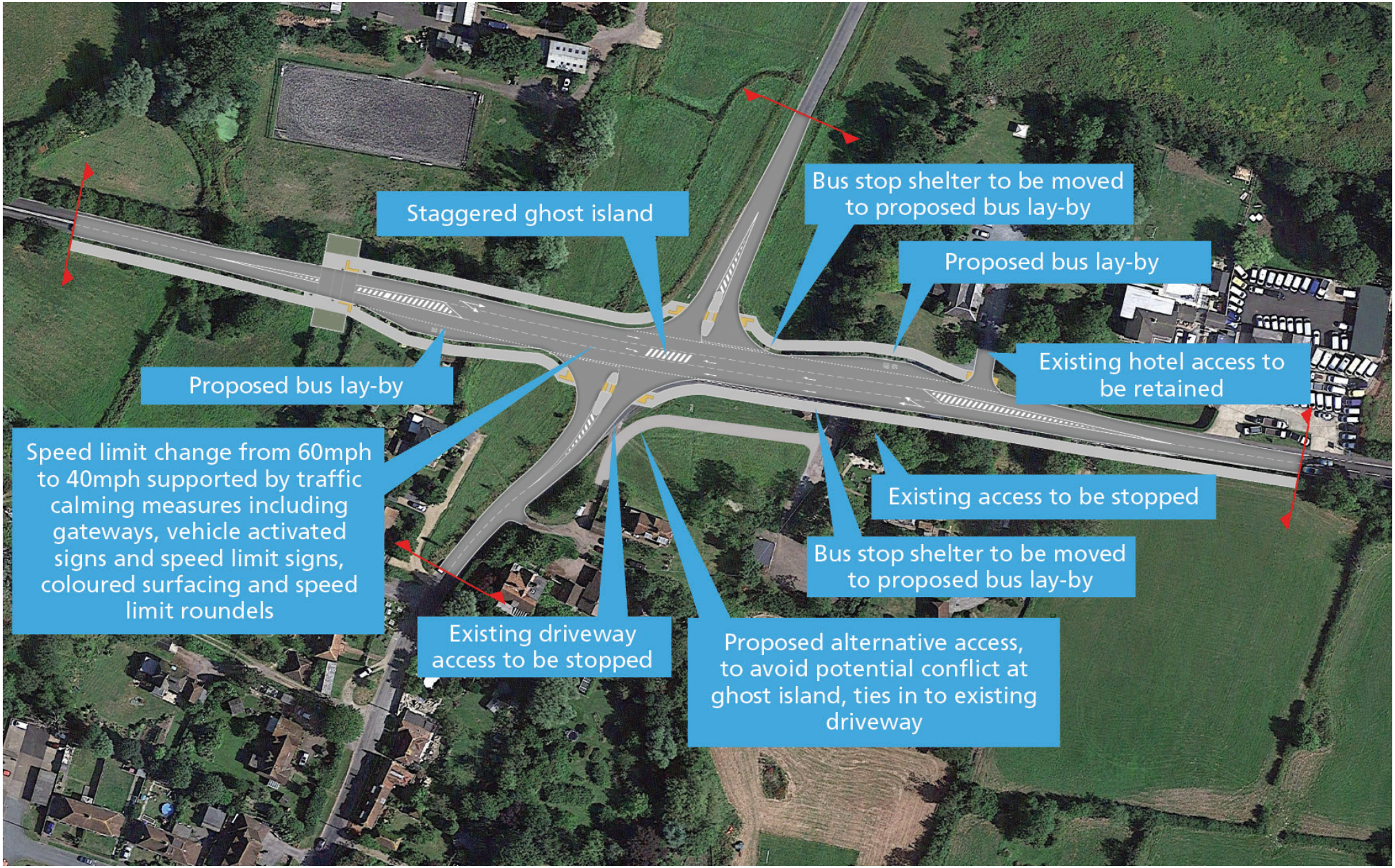
Write to: A27 East of Lewes Major Projects Team, Highways England, Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4LZ

Website: www.highways.gov.uk/A27EastofLewes

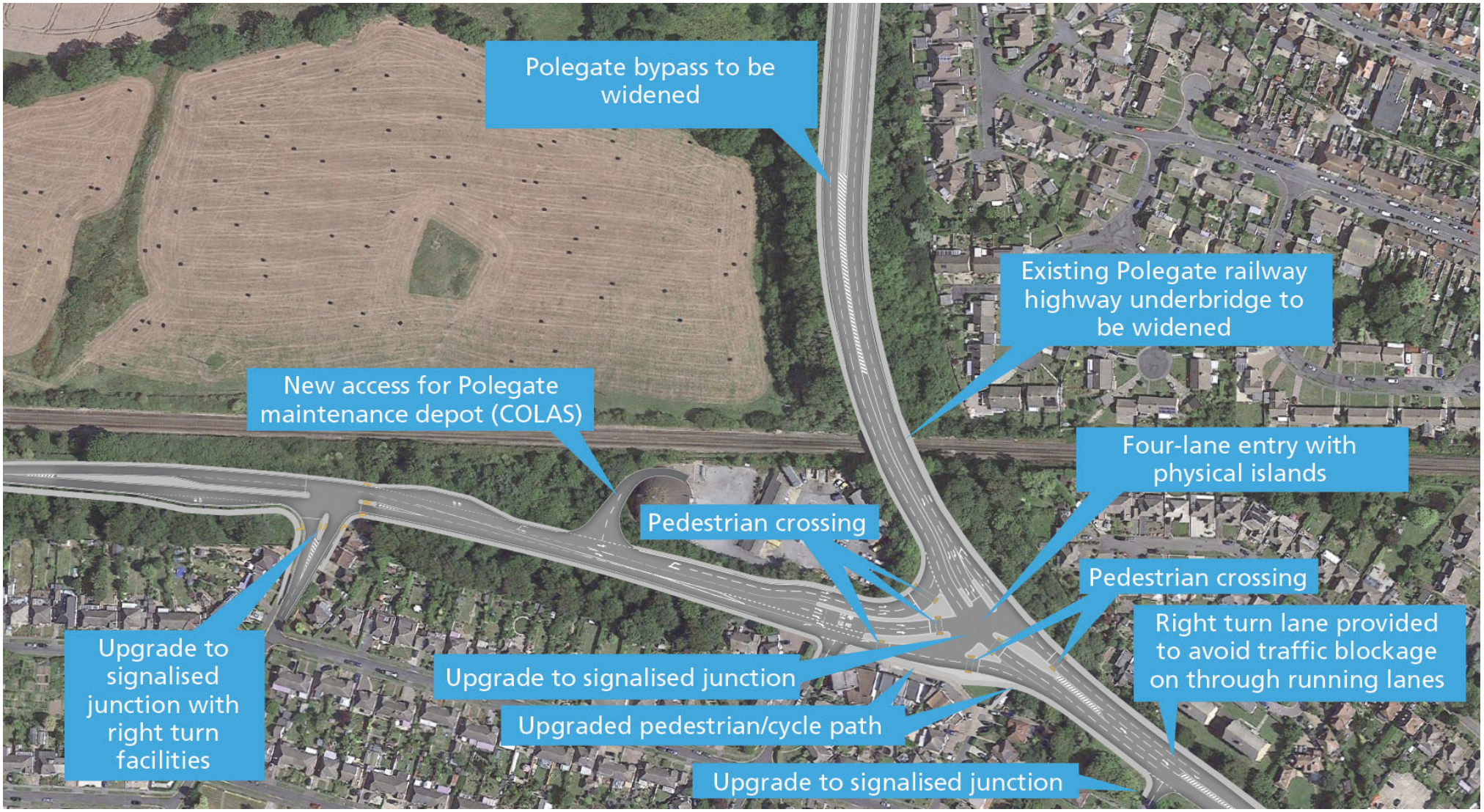
Drusillas Roundabout widening



Wilmington junction Option 7



Polegate Option 13



Walking and cycling path

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