

Bypass plan for busy A27

**Aim is to end
the congestion
in West Sussex**

MAJOR improvements to the A27 at Chichester, Arundel and Worthing form part of Highways England's five-year plan for the South East.

Plan to upgrade the highway at Chichester through 'junction improvements and a bypass could start as early as 2018/19 and be completed by 2020/21.

Highways England has also committed to 'taking forward and developing solutions' which will help to relieve congestion at both Arundel, and between Worthing and Lancing.

The A27 Action campaign, led by West Sussex County Council, district authorities, many of the county's MPs and businesses, has been pushing for significant improvements to the south coast's main road, but elements of the upgrades, such as a bypass at Arundel, have not received universal support from residents.

This information was published last Thursday in Highways England's Delivery Plan 2015-20 as it met with suppliers in Guildford to set out how £2.2bn of Government investment would be spent on improving roads in the South East.

Andrew Jones, roads minister, said: "Roads are key to our nation's prosperity. For too long they have suffered from under-investment.

"The government has a long-term plan to secure the country's economic future. This £2.2 billion investment in the region's roads will directly benefit hardworking families across the South East."

According to HA's website it is due to

go out for consultation on options for improvements around Chichester this winter. One of the options could include a northern bypass.

Meanwhile at Arundel and between Worthing and Lancing proposals are due to be further developed in 2016 while assessing potential traffic and environmental impacts.

Highways England's report estimated any recommendation on the preferred routes for these two areas would be made in 2017.

Simon Jones, South East regional director at Highways England, added: "Around 8.7 million people live and work in South East England, more than any other region, and our 932 miles of major roads are some of the busiest in Europe.

"The M25 alone is used to make an estimated 1 million journeys every day. We're delivering £2.2 billion investment in improvements to the South East's motorways and major A roads over the next five years.

"That includes nearly 150 miles of extra lanes, new junctions, and measures to tackle congestion, benefitting businesses, local residents and road users as well as delivering a fourfold return on investment for the UK economy.

"It's vital that we continue to improve the existing road network as well, which is why we're investing over £200 million this year alone in resurfacing, improving technology and safety measures and other maintenance projects.

"The region's motorways and dual carriageways are vital for our economy and this huge investment will ensure they remain fit for purpose for many years to come."

Up to £250m is earmarked for the upgrades at Chichester, up to £250m for an Arundel bypass, and up to £100m for works between Worthing and Lancing,