

For further information:

This is one of a series of six feasibility studies carried out across England during 2014. The government has been working with local partners to identify solutions to some of the most notorious and longstanding road hotspots in the country.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-investment-strategy#feasibility-studies>



A1 Newcastle-Gateshead Western Bypass Study

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Why we need to take action

The A1 Newcastle-Gateshead Western Bypass is important to the economy of the North East and for both local and national journeys. The route has some of the most congested highway links in the region and is recognised as a brake on local development.

The Allerdene Bridge, which carries the A1 over the East Coast Main Line, was constructed nearly 40 years ago and requires regular maintenance to keep it operational.

These factors mean that there is:

- congestion and delay for road users
- an above average number of accidents
- poor air quality
- off-peak lane closures to maintain the Allerdene Bridge

What we plan to do

As part of the 2012 Newcastle City Deal and the 2013 Spending Review, we agreed to widen the A1 between Coal House and Metrocentre to three lanes and this work has already started. We want to support the economy of the local area and reduce congestion, delays and accidents. Between now and 2030 over 20,000 new jobs are planned in Newcastle and Gateshead. We also want to tackle the on-going maintenance requirement of the Allerdene Bridge, making the route more reliable for the future. To meet current demand and to address the forecast impact of

traffic growth due to development sites adjacent to the route, we intend to bring forward further improvements:

- widening of the road between junctions 65 (Birtley) and 67 (Coal House) south of Gateshead to three lanes. This includes the replacement of the Allerdene Bridge
- narrow lane widening between junctions 74 (Scotswood) and 79 (North Brunton) to allow three lanes of traffic through the junctions, with four lanes between some junctions

- improvements along adjoining routes for pedestrians and cyclists to provide better connections between communities

These measures, together with the current Coal House to Metrocentre improvement, will mean that nearly all of the A1 Western Bypass will be three lanes, providing Expressway standards from the south to the north of Newcastle.

