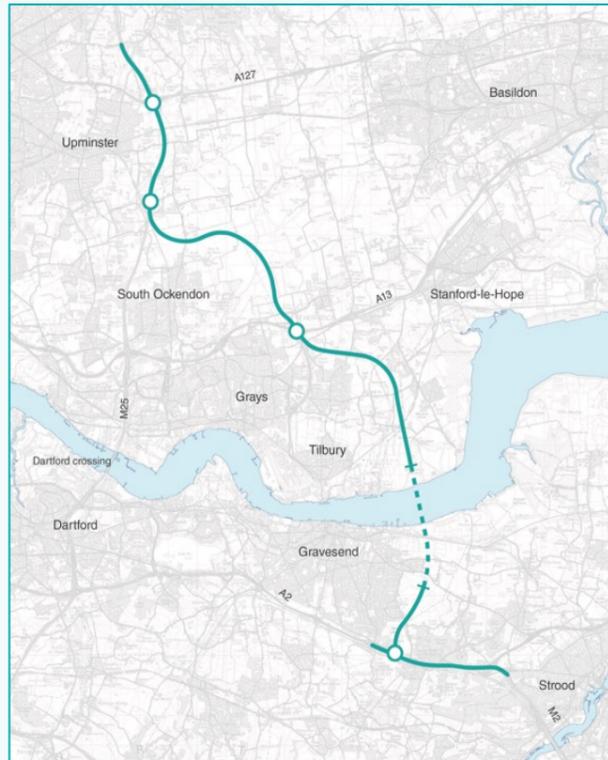


Lower Thames Crossing

What is it?

A proposed new road connecting Kent and Essex through a tunnel beneath the River Thames. On the south side of the River Thames, the new road would link to the A2 and M2 in Kent. On the north side, it would link to the A13 in Thurrock and the M25 in Havering.



Key facts

- £6.4bn – £8.2bn** cost
- Most ambitious road project** since the M25 opened 30 years ago
- Will provide a **90% increase in capacity** across the River Thames east of London
- Will open a **quicker freight connection** for businesses in the Midlands and the North to the South and the continent
- Approximately **14.5 miles (23km)** of new road
- Two 2.6-mile tunnels** crossing beneath the River Thames – the longest road tunnels in the UK
- Third largest** bored tunnels in the world
- Three lanes** in both directions (apart from the southbound connection between the M25 and A13, where it would be two lanes)

Progress so far



Route to road opening



Supply Chain

- Highways England is looking to engage with companies of all sizes who might be interested in working on the Lower Thames Crossing project.
- We want all interested suppliers to be well prepared as we invite and assess the tenders for major contracts and bidders begin forming their supply chains.



- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play a key role in developing the national economy and local communities. We want to ensure SMEs and local businesses play a key part in the project's supply chain and this is in line with the Government's aspiration of ensuring 30% of all procurement spend is with SMEs.
- The first stages of the procurement process focuses on large multidiscipline organisation that can manage and deliver big projects known as Tier One entities. Opportunities will follow for SMEs to bid for work on the project through these Tier Ones. We have set up a few things SMEs can do to keep up to date and maximise their opportunities to win work on the Lower Thames Crossing.

Why we need the LTC – helping solve problems at Dartford

- The Dartford Crossing is operating over capacity
- It's designed for 135,000 crossings a day, but often sees more than 180,000 crossings a day
- It has one of the highest incident rates on the strategic road network
- It's partially or fully closed over 300 times a year
- It can take 3 to 5 hours for roads to clear following a closure
- The western tunnel is 50 years old

Benefits – the LTC will:

- Support economic recovery by boosting local, regional and national economies
- Provide thousands of new jobs
- Offer new, more reliable connections, better journeys and fewer delays
- Be part of the biggest investment in our road network for a generation
- Nearly double road capacity between Kent and Essex
- Relieve congestion at Dartford by reducing vehicles using the crossing by 22%

Supply Chain Sustainability School

You can register your business for the Supply Chain School and take modules on topics that will provide a firm basis for working on a major piece of infrastructure. This will help upskill your business, putting you in the best position to tender for work on the project.

- Register for the [Supply Chain Sustainability School](#) and start developing your business' capabilities.
- Once you're registered, enrol in the [Highways England learning pathways](#) to show you're ready to work on one of our schemes.

Get involved

You can also register your interest and keep up to date with procurement processes through the [Bravo Portal](#), Highways England's procurement tool.



Keep an eye on our [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages for other updates and opportunities.



Are you a business that might benefit directly from the improved connectivity the Lower Thames Crossing will bring? **If so, we want to hear from you!** [Email our business engagement team](#) with details about your business to be a part of the Lower Thames Crossing story.

