Examination period nearly complete

Planning Inspectorate to start writing its report and recommendation in June

Plus

- How the project is progressing
- Local points of view
- Your questions answered
Message from Matthew

We are now in March, meaning we are halfway through one of the final stages of this crucial project. We are getting ever closer to the first spade going into the ground to make this bridge a reality.

In June, the current Public Examination period will close and by September the Planning Inspectorate will have submitted their report and recommendation to the Secretary of State. This means, all being well, we will hear news from the Secretary of State in December when they will approve the construction of the crossing.

With projects of national importance such as this, they are years in the planning; there is much policy and procedure to follow, which is set out by the government. So from the moment of the first idea to construction being complete, these schemes take a significant amount of time.

December 2019 may feel like a long way away - I certainly haven’t thought about my Christmas shopping just yet! But considering that Suffolk County Council submitted the Outline Business Case for the third crossing in December 2015, it really does feel that we are now sprinting down the home straight to the finish line.

I would like to take this opportunity to remember Dr Peter Widd, following his unexpected passing in January. Peter was a member of the Planning Inspectorate’s Examining Authority for the Lake Lothing Third Crossing, who I met at the start of the Public Examination period last year. On behalf of Suffolk County Council and the Lake Lothing Third Crossing project team, I send my condolences to Peter’s family, friends and colleagues.

We continue to look forward to the bridge being open and that reality gets closer every week.

Councillor Matthew Hicks
Leader of Suffolk County Council

The application process - the remaining steps

**COMPLETED**

- Jul 2018  Pre-Consultation
- Aug 2018  Acceptance
- Sep 2018  Pre-Examination

**NEXT**

**Examination**

Dec 2018 to Jun 2019

Interested Parties are invited to provide more details of their views of the project. You can request to speak at one of the hearings. The Planning Inspectorate has 6 months to complete the Examination.
A local point of view

“The Lowestoft Town Council can’t be more pleased that our long-awaited bridge is becoming a reality. Lowestoft has been talking about a third crossing for about 125 years, since the first mention of a need for another bridge was mentioned in the newspaper and frankly, it can’t come soon enough for us. This bridge will not only open up the town, it will open up opportunities for our families, our businesses and our future.”

Councillor Alice Taylor
Lowestoft Town Council (Independent)

“Lowestoft Rising believes the new third crossing will be a pivotal moment for the town, not only to prove wrong those who said it will never happen, but also to unite the town. It will spread traffic flow more evenly, giving businesses and the community a chance to grow as we see faster travel and a more connected town.

We want young people to be involved in learning about the construction of the crossing. They should take pride and ownership of it and of the surrounding areas that will also benefit from redevelopment.

You cannot underestimate the difference this project will make to the town and the people in it.”

Phil Aves
Lowestoft Rising, Partnership Change Manager

Recommendation
Jun to Sep 2019
The Planning Inspectorate must prepare a report on the application to the relevant Secretary of State, including a recommendation, within three months of the close of the Examination.

Decision
Sep to Dec 2019
The relevant Secretary of State has three months to make the decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent.

Post-decision
Dec 2019 to Jan 2020
Once a decision has been issued by the relevant Secretary of State, there is a six week period in which the decision may be challenged in the High Court.
Your questions answered

"Is the bridge ever going to get built? I haven't seen a spade go in the ground yet."

This project has been identified as being nationally important, and that means it requires a lot of time and paperwork! Before any of the building work can begin, the project needs to be examined and approved by the Government. So far, this process has taken around five years, but the good news is that we are in the final stages. The current examination period is due to finish in June 2019, with a final decision due in December 2019.

"I've heard that some residential properties on the north side of Lake Lothing will be demolished or acquired?"

We're pleased to reassure anyone, that we do not plan to demolish or acquire any residential property to the north of the lake.

Do you have a question or concern about the Lake Lothing Third Crossing project which you'd like answered? Email the team: LakeLothing3rdCrossing@suffolk.gov.uk

The first on-site works have begun

The Lake Lothing Third Crossing project has now progressed from visualisations of the structure, to a point where early site works can commence.

Final design work of the bridge has been going on behind the scenes, from maximising its structural efficiency, to working out how this unique structure will be made and installed. This will require some big construction machinery arriving on the banks of Lake Lothing which you will not be able to miss!

We have begun site surveys, which cover a range of aspects required to bring this project to life. These include preparations for CCTV, the use of ground-penetrating radar and topographical work which looks at the area’s physical features. The contracts for these surveys have been let to two East Anglian based companies: Survey Solutions and Industrial Water Jetting Systems (IWJS).

We are planning some exciting experiences using augmented reality to give you an idea of how the future Lowestoft skyline will look. This is similar to virtual reality and displays a computer-generated model of the bridge over the existing, real-life landscape.

We are also planning workshops with local schools and a ‘Meet the Team’ event in late Spring to invite local suppliers, subcontractors and businesses to meet us, discuss the project and explore ways in which we can all work together.

Lowestoft will soon start to see and feel the roots of the bridge project developing. I look forward to seeing you on site in the near future!

Scott Thompson
Project Manager, BAM Nuttall

March 2016
2016-17
Autumn 2017
August 2018
December 2018
June 2019
December 2019
2019/2020
Bridge opens

Conditional
funding
granted
Reference
design
Public
consultation
Planning
application
accepted
Examination
period starts
Examination
period ends
Secretary
of State
decision
Construction
begins

FIND OUT
MORE

Email: lakeathing3rdcrossing@suffolk.gov.uk
Web: www.suffolk.gov.uk/lakeathing3rdcrossing
Call: 0345 606 6171 (open Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.30pm)

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Es necesario pedir por este informe en otro idioma, favor de llamar al número gratuito 03456 066 067.

Jeżeli potrzebujesz więcej informacji o tym projekcie w innym języku, zadzwoń do numeru 03456 066 067.

conditional funding granted Reference design Public consultation Planning application accepted Examination period starts Examination period ends Secretary of State decision Construction begins Bridge opens

If you would like more information in another format, including audio or large print, please call 03456 066 067.