

NEG has been *hugely successful* raising awareness and applying pressure locally and in Westminster, leading to the Ox-Cam Expressway being “paused”! We *must* keep the pressure on until it’s officially cancelled.

Actions

- **PLEASE sign our petition. It’s not too late... it’s not over until it’s over!** – noexpressway.org/petition-signup
- **PLEASE email Grant Shapps MP** – to ask him to scrap the Expressway once and for all
- **Hear all the latest news.** Sign-up on noexpressway.org/#newsletter for up to the minute news and updates
- **We urgently need to raise funds** to run our campaign and to pay for consultants and experts. Please donate here donorbox.org/donate-to-no-expressway-group
- **Follow us & Share** - Facebook facebook.com/noexpresswaygroup/ and Twitter @no_expressway

What’s new (for full details go to noexpressway.org/news-updates)

Budget and Road Investment Strategy 2 (RIS2) – Expressway Paused NOT Cancelled

- **Ox-Cam Expressway “paused” is a missed opportunity to cancel. Housing growth still being planned**
- It is a missed opportunity and very disappointing that the budget was not used to cancel the Expressway. Given the budget was focused on messages about “getting things done”, the RIS2 document would have been the ideal place to announce complete cancellation of this destructive scheme.
- RIS2 announced the Ox-Cam Expressway is “paused”, saying:
 - **“We are now pausing further development of the scheme while we undertake further work on other potential road projects** that could support the Government’s ambition for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc”
 - “including exploring **opportunities to alleviate congestion** around the Arc’s major economic centres such as Milton Keynes”
 - Interestingly RIS2 says the government “investigated the potential for a new high-quality link road between the **M1 and M40** which could support this growth and examined the costs and benefits of a range of options, **taking account of the views of local authorities and residents in the Arc.**

Interesting that RIS2 only talks about M1-M40, not M1-M4 (from M1-Cambridge the road is almost all at Expressway standard). Great to see the RIS2 acknowledge the impact of what Local Authorities & residents of the Arc have said... they didn’t seek us out... but we have made our views clear!

ALSO of note are the expected commitments to improve junctions between Black Cat and Caxton Gibbet & complete the A34 Newbury to M40 junction 9 safety enhancements.

- The Budget says that the corridor of land connecting Oxford, Milton Keynes, Bedford and Cambridge (**the OxCam Arc**) **has been designated as a key economic priority – be ready for development!**
- Both the Budget & RIS2 mention work to be done with local partners to prepare a **long-term Spatial Framework to identify the role of transport**, “proposed **economic and housing growth ambitions** for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.”
- The Budget says the government will “examine and develop the case for **up to four new Development Corporations** in the OxCam Arc at Bedford, St Neots/Sandy, Cambourne and Cambridge, which includes plans to explore the case for a **New Town** at Cambridge, to accelerate new housing and infrastructure development.” - *this does not mean there won’t be development in other areas of the Arc, far from it!*

In the News

- There has been a lot of coverage locally of the “pausing” of the Expressway in print media, on BBC South Today, BBC Radio Oxford and BBC Three Counties Radio.

Further NEG activities

- We continue awareness-raising with a NEG Woburn Sands event in Wavendon and a NEG meeting in Great Brickhill
- Working with other groups including CPRE & Transport Action Network on next steps.

What's next

- Driving petition sign ups on site
- Continue putting pressure on to cancel the Ox-Cam Expressway in total
- Continue working with the Stronger Together group and working on a programme of activities for schools

Events (see noexpressway.org events page for full details)

- TBC Leighton Buzzard