

**The Essex County Council (A120, Stansted) (Prohibition of U-Turns)
Order 202*.**

STATEMENT OF REASONS

The area around Junction 8 of the M11 is increasingly congested and lacking capacity at peak times. Planned developments in the north of Bishop's Stortford and local growth planned in East Herts and Uttlesford will lead to an increasing amount of traffic using the junctions in the years ahead as London Stansted Airport continues to grow. Our studies have shown that the best short- to medium-term solution would be to improve off-slip lane capacity onto Junction 8 of the M11 with a widened A120 signalised junction, to help meet future network demand.

As part of the wider scheme, it is proposed to replace the existing A120/A1250 (Dunmow Road) roundabout with a signalised junction to address congestion issues and meet forecast traffic demand up to 2036. Widen the A120 eastbound and westbound to three lanes on the approach to the new junction with the A1250 and introduce a dedicated lane westbound for A1250 traffic as well as a new right-turn lane for traffic for Birchanger Lane. The revised highways layout will enable the full range of traffic movements in and out of Birchanger village to be retained, as the realignment of Birchanger Lane will allow direct traffic towards A1250 Bishop's Stortford, and the A120 west with a single traffic signal phase for all movements.

Following the final road safety audit for the scheme, it is recommended that a prohibition of U-Turn is implemented on the A120 in two locations. The audit showed an increased potential for side-impact or nose-to-tail collisions at the new right hand turn locations from the A120, leading towards Birchanger Lane and A1250 Dunmow Road. There is evidence that road users are currently performing U-turns at these new junctions, placing themselves at risk of collisions with oncoming traffic. It is proposed to implement a 'No U-Turn' traffic sign mounted at the two locations.