A133 Colchester to Clacton route improvements

Working on behalf of Essex County Council

March 2020

Background
The A133 is the key route providing access from Colchester to the seaside resort of Clacton–on–Sea and allowing access from the district of Tendring into Colchester. Essex County Council and the South East Local Enterprise Partnership have made £3.25m available to fund improvements. These are designed to support economic growth and provide safety improvements to the route; they will also increase journey time reliability through highway capacity improvements for motorists and improved passenger transport facilities. This work is being carried out by Jackson Civil Engineering on behalf of Essex County Council.

What are we doing?
Improvements include:

- Frating Roundabout - introduce left-turn slip from A133 (A120 Spur) to A133 (east) and modify roundabout and approaches to increase capacity.
- Weeley Roundabout - widen northbound approach, road marking and signage improvements.
- Safety Improvements - local carriageway widening and junction improvements on A133 Colchester Road between Frating Roundabout and Weeley Roundabout to reduce congestion and address existing road safety issues.

Works started in November 2019. The works is being undertaken in a phased approach and are due to be completed in Spring 2020.

Please note that details may be subject to change if the works are hindered by poor weather conditions or if unexpected issues arise.

Progress
Works have been programmed to cause the least disruption to the public as possible and to keep traffic moving. We are pleased to report that to date we have managed to minimise traffic delays.

Weeley roundabout works
The drainage works, slope repprofiling and road widening on the northbound approach to Weeley Roundabout is progressing well. Kerbing works will start soon and carriageway resurfacing works on the approach to Weeley Roundabout will follow in April.

To complete road resurfacing work safely we will need an overnight road closure on A133 (northbound) between Progress Way roundabout and Weeley roundabout. A full traffic management diversion route has been established and will be clearly signposted.

Kerb realignment and carriageway modifications to the right turn lane from A133 Colchester Road into Crown Lane has been completed.

Fratting roundabout works
Construction works of the drainage attenuation tank on the south side of the scheme is almost complete with drainage connections remaining.
BT Openreach service diversions on A133 Colchester Road are continuing and streetlight ducting work is in progress.

Road widening works on all approaches to Frating Roundabout including the roundabout bypass lane have begun and construction works will start on the roundabout island shortly.

Once all drainage and kerbing works have been completed, the final stage will be to resurface the entire roundabout. A series of overnight road closures will be arranged later in the programme to complete this work. Details will be made available in advance.

As part of the highway improvements, we will also be making some changes to the central traffic island on the A120 spur. To do this we will need to reduce the dual carriageway from 2 lanes to 1 lane for approximately 500m on the approach to Frating Roundabout.

To ensure the safety of all road users and construction operatives, all traffic is restricted within the works to a temporary speed limit.

Traffic management
A full nighttime road closure is required at Weeley roundabout for 4 nights to complete road resurfacing works. This is scheduled from Monday 30 March 2020 to Friday 3 April 2020 between 9.00pm and 5.00am. All other traffic management at Weeley remains unchanged.

The traffic management at Frating roundabout will change from 15 March 2020. The alignment of the red/white barriers will be modified with cones replacing the barrier in some locations. The approach to the roundabout from the A120 spur will reduce from 2 lanes to 1 lane for approximately 4-5 weeks.

Most construction works will continue during the daytime with only limited night-time working. For the safety of the public and operatives we have segregated our working area, separating the public from plant movements and material delivery.

We appreciate that this is a traffic sensitive site and the works will be planned to minimise disruption while allowing effective working.

Our environment
We aim to recycle 85% of all waste that is generated on this site.

Waste is avoided by segregating materials on site and using waste carrier companies that provide feedback on the percentage of total waste recycled.

The team have found ways of recycling excavated materials and reusing them back into the scheme. To date this has saved over 100 lorry movements and approximately 2,000 tonnes of waste going into landfill. Where recycling is not possible due to material specification standards, we use recycled aggregate and products.

Single use plastics are discouraged across the company. We supply compostable cups at all refreshment stations on site and source recycled options wherever possible and suitable.

To help towards our carbon off setting targets the project includes the planting of 100 medium sized trees at Frating.

We are continually looking for ways to reuse and reduce our carbon footprint.

Improving the image of construction
The scheme’s monitor visited our site in February and was very impressed with the high standards set by the team. Jackson’s have achieved the ‘Certificate of Excellence’ which is awarded to sites that are excelling at being a considerate constructor.

Scheme Monitor Derek Monnery said: “The whole site team is focussed on minimising inconvenience to motorists and to site neighbours; a reprogramming of the works has made it possible for a disruptive traffic diversion to be avoided at Weeley”.

Site reference: 119000

Freephone: 0800 783 1423
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How to find out more?
Essex County Council website will be updated with information about the scheme as works progress. Scan the QR code to link to the website or use the weblink below.


If you have any questions or comments about the scheme, please contact the Essex County Council customer service team on 0345 603 7631 or use the weblink: https://www.essex.gov.uk/enquiries

Thank you
The project team would like to thank you for your patience and understanding whilst we have been carrying out these important improvement works.