

# A350 Chippenham Bypass Phases 4 & 5 Dualling



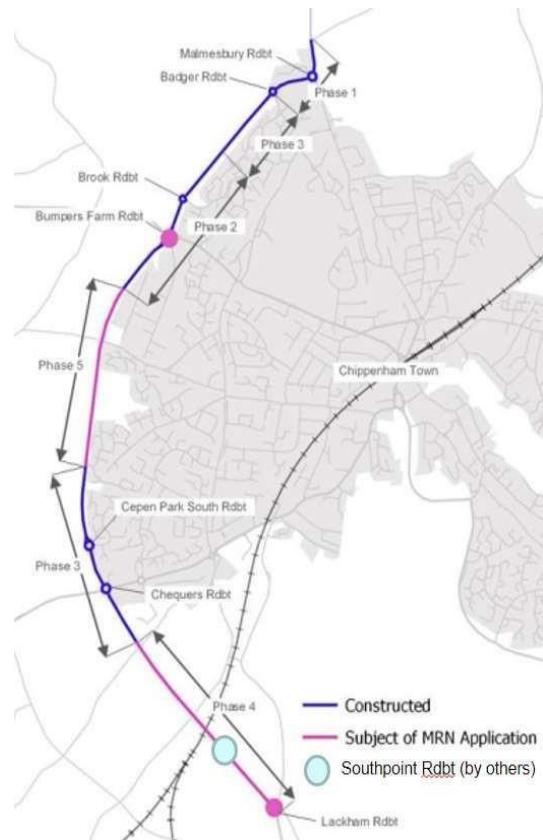


## BACKGROUND

The A350 is one of the most important strategic routes within Wiltshire, and ensuring it operates effectively helps support the local economy. For many years, high traffic volumes on the A350 Chippenham Bypass have resulted in delays and unpredictable journey times for road users, especially at Bumpers Farm Industrial Estate. Increasing traffic demand associated with housing and employment growth is forecast to make the situation worse.

Mitigation is needed to maintain an acceptable level of service on the A350, to preserve the attractiveness of the Chippenham area as a principal development location, and to benefit existing and future road users as well as Wiltshire as a whole.

Originally, the A350 Chippenham Bypass was built as a single carriageway, and over the past decade, a comprehensive programme of A350 dualling and junction improvements has been underway, with Wiltshire Council having already successfully completed the first three phases of the programme. The A350 Chippenham Bypass Phases 4 & 5 scheme will build on this work and will complete the Council's aim to dual the entire Chippenham Bypass.



The Wiltshire Council Business Plan contains four objectives particularly relevant to this scheme:

- We have vibrant well-connected communities.
- We are safe.
- We take responsibility for the environment.
- We have the right skills to prosper.

The scheme supports the aim of helping people to get around easily and having a thriving economy. It will improve road safety and provide suitable facilities for vulnerable users, with provision for walking and cycling and safe facilities to cross the road. The scheme has been designed with appropriate environmental assessments, mitigation and drainage systems designed to reduce the risk of flooding and manage water quality. The project forms part of the wider strategy to improve the A350 to encourage employment opportunities and development within the corridor. It will also reduce the amount of traffic seeking to use alternative, less appropriate roads.

This scheme is being delivered by the Highway Authority under its powers to manage, maintain and upgrade the highway asset. The scheme has planning consent and is being brought forward as permitted development. The scheme does not focus solely on providing benefits for local residents, although the scheme will deliver local traffic improvements, as the thrust of the project is to provide an enhanced asset for all users of the A350 corridor including, importantly, regional and strategic traffic movements and connections.





*Previously dualled section of the Chippenham Bypass similar to current scheme*

The A350 Chippenham Bypass (Phases 4 and 5) dualling scheme consists of the following elements:

- **Bumpers Farm Roundabout improvements:** there will be additional traffic lanes and highway capacity on the A420 approaches and exits to the roundabout. There will also be additional lanes on the A350 northbound approach to the roundabout. Traffic signals will be added to the A420 and A350 approaches, and traffic signal-controlled pedestrian and cycle crossings will be provided on the northern A350, and eastern A420 arms of the junction.
- **Phase 4 dualling (Chequers to Lackham):** the A350 will be widened to two lanes in both directions, between Chequers and Lackham Roundabouts. A new roundabout at the Southpoint development is currently being built by a developer, and the Phase 4 works will tie into that new junction.
- **Phase 5 dualling (Bumpers Farm to Cepen Park South):** the A350 will be widened to two lanes in each direction between Bumpers Farm and Cepen Park South Roundabouts. This is the section of road which passes the rugby club.
- **Lackham Roundabout capacity enhancements:** the scheme is anticipated to complete the dualling from M4 to Lackham Roundabout, with some minor changes proposed at the roundabout to improve traffic flows there.

## THE NEXT STAGES

The Full Business Case is being submitted to the Department for Transport for final approval of the funding.

The intention is that some advance works, vegetation clearance and earthworks should be carried out early in 2024, with the main works starting in spring 2024 and being completed in 2025.

A meet the contractor event will be held prior to the main works starting, and webpage will provide up to date information of progress with contact information.