

Autumn Statement November 2011

Fuel duty increase planned for January 2012 cancelled

2.30 Fuel duty – The Government announces that the 3.02 pence per litre (ppl) fuel duty increase that was due to take effect on 1 January 2012 will be deferred to 1 August 2012. In addition, the increase that was planned for 1 August 2012 will be cancelled. On 1 August 2012, the duty rate for leaded petrol and compressed natural gas will change by the same monetary amount as main fuel duty, and the duty rate for aviation gasoline and rebated oils will change in proportion to the main rate. The duty differential for liquefied petroleum gas will be maintained until 1 August 2012 when it will be reduced by 1 ppl. (7)

Investment in road improvement schemes

1.89 The Government is also increasing public investment in infrastructure, and has already announced the £500 million Growing Places local infrastructure fund and £150 million to expand mobile network coverage. As part of the new investment at the Autumn Statement, the Government can also announce major investments in road, rail, and broadband networks.

1.90 The Government will invest over £1 billion (of which around £900 million will be in the Spending Review 2010 period) to tackle areas of congestion and improve the national road network, including:

- £270 million for two new managed motorway schemes to allow use of the hard shoulder at congested times on the M3 and M6;
- £150 million for improvements to the M1/M6 intersection, £110 million for the A14 Kettering Bypass, £160 million for widening the A453 and £110 million for the A45/46 Tollbar End improvement scheme; and
- £220 million for smaller projects which will deliver significant improvements on the road network, such as removing bottlenecks and improving safety and road layout.

1.91 More than £1.4 billion will be invested in railway infrastructure and commuter links, including:

- supporting Network Rail to deliver £290 million to electrify the Transpennine railway route from Manchester to Leeds, and £270 million for a rail link between Oxford and Bedford;
- supporting Network Rail to deliver £390 million of enhancement and renewal works to improve stations and rail infrastructure, improve resilience against extreme weather and tackle problems more quickly;⁸ and
- the Government funding improvements to the quality of travel for rail users, including £45 million to extend smart ticketing across London and the South-East, £80 million to support the Southern Rail franchise's procurement of 130 new carriages, and £290 million to limit the increase to regulated rail and Transport for London fares in January 2012 to the Retail Prices Index (RPI) plus one per cent.

Roads

A.3 A14 immediate investment – The Government will invest £20 million to reduce congestion on the A14 including measures to improve junctions and increase resilience.

A.4 A14 challenge – The Government will examine ways to increase the long-term capacity and performance of the A14 with the launch in early December 2011 of a large-scale engagement programme: 'the A14 Challenge'. By spring 2012, it will have developed and assessed proposals including capacity enhancements on the Fen Ditton to Ellington section of

the road. The Government will also look at the scope to relieve congestion by improving other modes including local roads, freight facilities and public transport. It will consider whether improvements can be funded through innovative financing mechanisms including tolling. This work will support the proposed development of new homes in Northstowe, Waterbeach and Alconbury. The Government will also consider tolls to fund other road infrastructure if appropriate.

A.5 A14 Kettering Bypass – The Government will invest £110 million for widening of the A14 Kettering Bypass between Junctions 7 and 9. (aa)

A.6 A45/46 Tollbar End improvement – The Government will invest £110 million for the A45/46 Tollbar End improvement scheme. (v)

A.7 Access to Manchester Airport – The Government will invest approximately £165 million in a new dual carriageway road linking the M56 at Manchester Airport to the A6 south of Stockport. (z)

A.8 A453 widening – The Government will invest £160 million for widening of the A453 between Nottingham, the M1 and East Midlands Airport. (v)

A.9 Managed motorway schemes – The Government will invest £270 million for two new managed motorway schemes: to use the hard shoulder to increase capacity on the M3 in Surrey; and the M6 along part of the route between Birmingham and Manchester. (y)

A.10 M25 and M1 junctions – The Government will invest £100 million to accelerate the current major projects planned on the M25 (Junctions 23-27) and the M1 (Junctions 39-42). Together these will deliver 48 miles of additional capacity.³ (ab)

A.11 M1/M6 Junction intersection – The Government will invest £150 million for major road improvements on the M1/M6 Junction intersection. (v)

A.12 Local transport projects – The Government will provide an extra £170 million of funding for local authority major transport projects to enable all the projects in the development pool for the Spending Review 2010 period to go ahead, subject to them passing the Department for Transport assurance process. As of 29 November 2011, 20 individual projects have passed this process including £76 million for the Kingskerswell Bypass in Devon and an additional £50 million on the bypass road to the east of Lincoln.⁴ (x)

A.13 Lower Thames crossing – The Government is committed to building a new crossing across the Lower Thames and has identified three possible locations for a crossing. The Government is launching its analysis of the relative merits of those options to inform a public consultation in 2013, and will be exploring the options for tackling Junction 30 of the M25 and pressures on the A13 corridor.

A.14 A1 Elkesley planning permission – The Government has approved the planning permission for the A1 at Elkesley.

A.15 Road Pinch Point fund – The Government will provide additional funding of £220 million for smaller projects which will ease local bottlenecks and improve safety and road layout. This fund will also invest in driver information, signage and closed-circuit television, to improve incident clear up times and assist road users, particularly road hauliers. (w)

A.16 M4 improvement – The Government will engage with the Welsh Government on improvements to the M4 in South-East Wales.