

Five-year plan to end the gridlock

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Commuter chaos at two of the area's notorious traffic hotspots is set to be tackled as part a £1.5 billion cash injection from the Government.

Dualling the A428 and improving the Black Cat roundabout featured in an announcement made on Monday by Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin and Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander, where they revealed the East of England's share of a £15b 'road investment strategy'.

The A428 will be converted into a dual carriageway, creating a continuous 'expressway' from Cambridge to Bedford and Milton Keynes. A new strategic study will also look at the possibility of extending it from Milton Keynes to Oxford.

One of 84 named schemes, construction is expected to start within five years. The Government estimates the project will cost between £250-£500million.

The next step will see the creation of

potential routes for the expanded A428 around St Neots up to Caxton Gibbet and the start of a consultation process.

The announcement also promises to "open a new chapter in the history of the A1" with improvements to the Black Cat roundabout, upgrades on the Stevenage A1(M) section and potential for the road to become motorway standard between the M25 and Peterborough.

The chairman of the A428/A421 Alliance, Huntingdon MP Jonathan Djanogly, said: "I am delighted that our Government has now recognised the vital need to upgrade the A428. The announcement is excellent news for my constituents in Huntingdonshire and for the East of England. These proposals are going to improve security for my constituents and

provide the infrastructure necessary to develop our local and regional businesses. Now we need to keep the pressure on for this project to be delivered as soon as possible."

Mr Djanogly also welcomed the feasibility study into upgrading the A1.

He added: "In 1994 there were plans to reroute the A1 between Black Cat roundabout and Brampton to the west. This remains a popular option with local residents and I shall be working with them to make sure our voice is heard in the coming feasibility study and consultation."

Councillor Ian Bates, chairman of the economy and environment committee at Cambridgeshire County Council, said: "That particular bit of the A1 between the Black Cat and Caxton Gibbet is a

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I think it is worth keeping an eye on this, especially the A1 si