

What is the Lower Thames Crossing?

The Lower Thames Crossing is a proposed new road connecting Kent, Thurrock and Essex through a tunnel beneath the River Thames. It would provide much-needed new road capacity across the river east of London.

On the south side of the River Thames, the new road would link to the A2 and M2 in Kent. On the north side, it would link to the A13 in Thurrock and the M25 in Havering. The tunnel crossing is located to the east of Gravesend on the south of the River Thames and to the west of East Tilbury on the north side.

The Lower Thames Crossing proposals include:

- approximately 14.3 miles (23km) of new roads connecting the tunnel to the existing road network
- three lanes in both directions, apart from the southbound connection between the M25 and A13, where it would be two lanes, and around junctions
- technology providing lane control and variable speed limits up to 70mph
- upgrades to the M25, A2 and A13 where it connects to those roads
- new structures and changes to existing ones including bridges, viaducts and utilities such as electricity pylons
- two 2.6-mile (4.3km) tunnels crossing beneath the river, one for southbound traffic, one for northbound traffic
- a free-flow charging system, where drivers do not need to stop but pay remotely, similar to that at the Dartford Crossing
- traffic regulation measures that include prohibiting use by pedestrians, low-powered motorcycles, cyclists, horse riders and agricultural vehicles
- provision of environment mitigation and replacement of special category land