

Highway Infrastructure & Capital Investment

Steve Spender CEng HonFIHE

Past President

Institute of Highway Engineers

hetcassociates@outlook.com

The Highway Network in the UK is split into two distinct categories:

- The Strategic Road Network - managed by Highways England
 - These include most Motorways, some Trunk Roads & some of the Principle 'A' Roads
 - The Local Road Network - managed by Highway Authorities
 - This includes some Principle A Roads, and all of the 'B', 'C' & 'U' Roads
-

In the latest statistics published in April 2017 road lengths in Great Britain were recorded as:

- 2,300 miles of Motorway
- 5,300 miles of Trunk 'A' roads
- 23,800 miles of Principle 'A' roads
- 18,800 Miles of 'B' roads
- 196,300 miles of 'C' & 'U' roads

- Highways England (HE) are responsible for 4,300 miles of network in England, which equates to **2%** of the network and this carries approximately **33%** of all road travel, including **50%** of lorry travel.
 - Local Roads in England comprise of 25 miles of motorway, 17,500 miles of 'A' roads, and 165,860 miles of minor roads all of which equates to **97.6%** of the complete network.
-

- 89% of Passenger miles are by road
- 73% of adults hold a driving licence
- 77% of households have access to a car with 34% having access to two or more
- 86% of people travel by car at least once/twice a week.

The anticipated funding for the Strategic Network for the period 2015 – 2020 (current RIS) is estimated to be between **£11 billion - £15 billion**. Under RIS2 covering the period between 2021 – 2025, this figure is estimated to rise to approximately **£30 billion** which will include funding for the introduction of the new Major Road Network (MRN).

Funding for Local Roads for the existing Parliamentary Period is estimated to be:

- Local Highway Maintenance Funding - **£4.6 billion** over 6 years
- Incentive/Efficiency Element Funding - **£578** million between 2016 – 2021
- Pothole Action Fund – **£250** million between 2015 – 2021 (**£140 million already allocated**)
- National Productivity Investment Fund - **£185 million** in 2017/18
- Safer Roads Fund - **£175 million** between 2017/18 – 2020/21

Highway England's priorities for their network are:

- Continued roll out of Smart Motorways
 - Introduction of Express Ways
 - Improved Surfaces & Renewals
 - Safety Improvements
 - Reducing Congestion (i.e. Pinch Points)
-

Highway Authority priorities are:

- Renewals
- Improved Safety
- Reducing Congestion
- Improved Air Quality in Towns & Cities
- Local Connectivity
- Road User Priorities
- Cyclists

Some of the key challenges facing the Highways Sector:

- Increasing Congestion
- The increased use of Technology in the Sector
- Significant aggregation of Clients and Suppliers
- Finite & Reducing Resources
- HE's Five year Road Investment Strategy
- LA's Capital Settlement & the Reduction in Revenue Funding
- Public Perception
- Loss of Technical Expertise & the Skills Shortage

Meeting the skills challenge

