

Building Intelligence & Using Technology: Dartford Free-Flow Charging Project

CIHT South East Seminar – 15 May 2012

Derek Turner

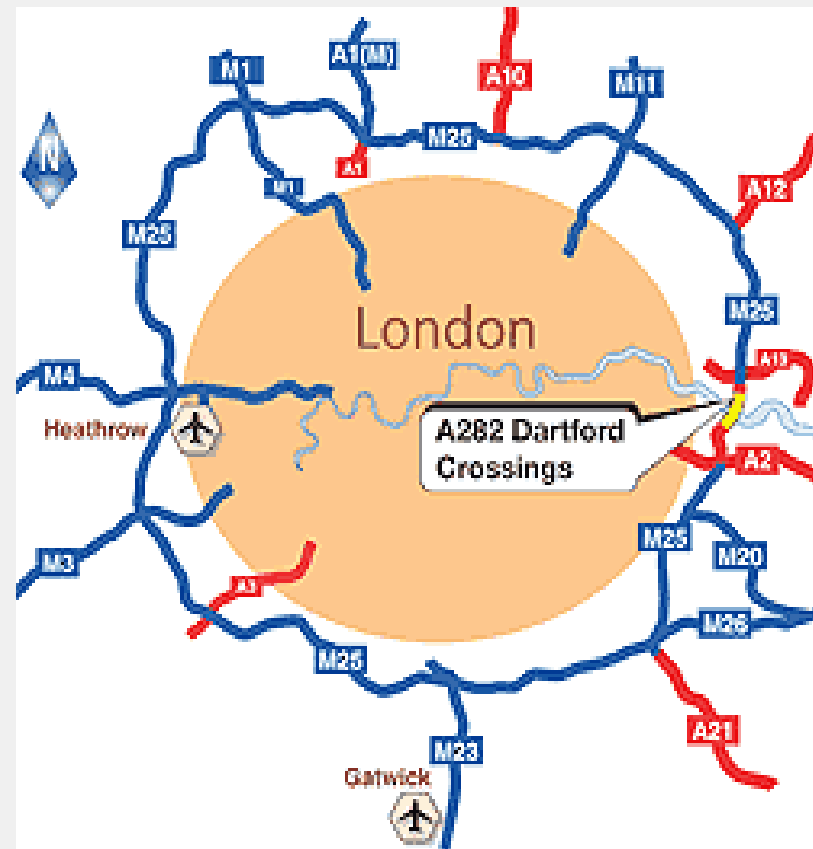
Highways Agency

Director of Network Delivery and Development and Deputy Chief Executive



Background – the Dartford Crossing

- Critical part of Strategic Road Network in South East of England;
- Connects two eastern orbital ends of M25; and
- Essential link for local traffic joining the motorway.



Strategic drivers

- The Coalition Government has a priority to promote the more effective use of strategic roads.
- Secretary of State for Transport and Ministers are committed to improving traffic flow and congestion at the Dartford Crossing in the short, medium and longer term.



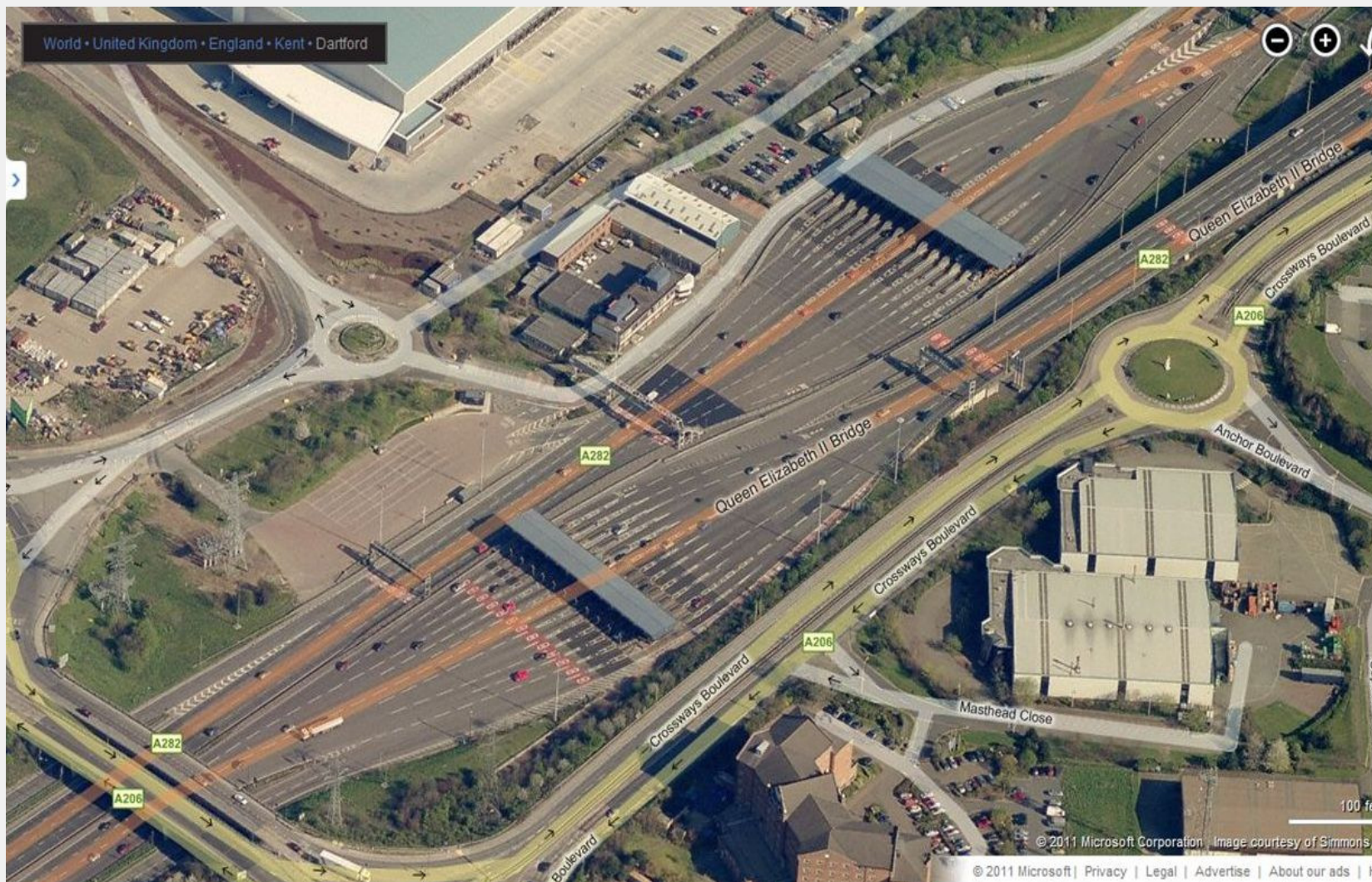
Image source: Evening Standard

What is Dartford 'Free-Flow' Charging?

Background

- The 'Free-Flow' Charging Project seeks to make improvements to the operating model and built environment of the existing Dartford Crossing.
- Key aims are to:
 - Reduce congestion at the Crossing;
 - Deliver improved journey times; and
 - Deliver improved journey time reliability.

The current layout



Revised 'Free-Flow' layout



What are the objectives of introducing 'Free-Flow' Charging? (1/2)

Primary objectives

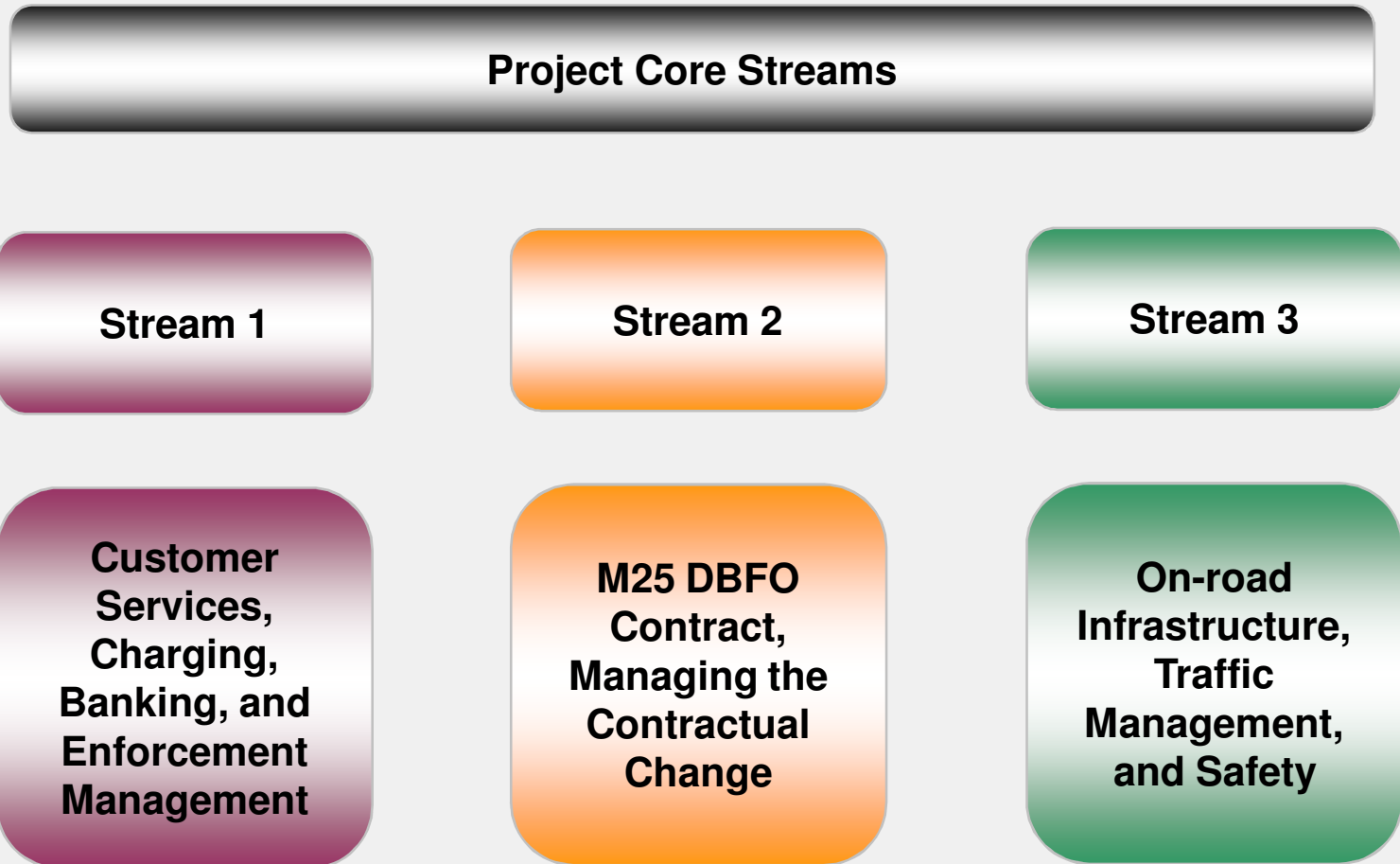
- ✓ Reduce congestion at and around the Crossing;
- ✓ Improve average journey times through the Crossing;
- ✓ Deliver a quantifiable improvement in journey time reliability;
- ✓ Ensure there is no reduction in the safety performance of the Crossing;
- ✓ Ensure continuity of service to the Crossing users during the transition and implementation phases;
- ✓ Ensure that the service is delivered in a cost effective manner; and
- ✓ Seek to deliver the Scheme which is included in the Department for Transport Business Plan.

What are the objectives of introducing 'Free-Flow' Charging? (2/2)

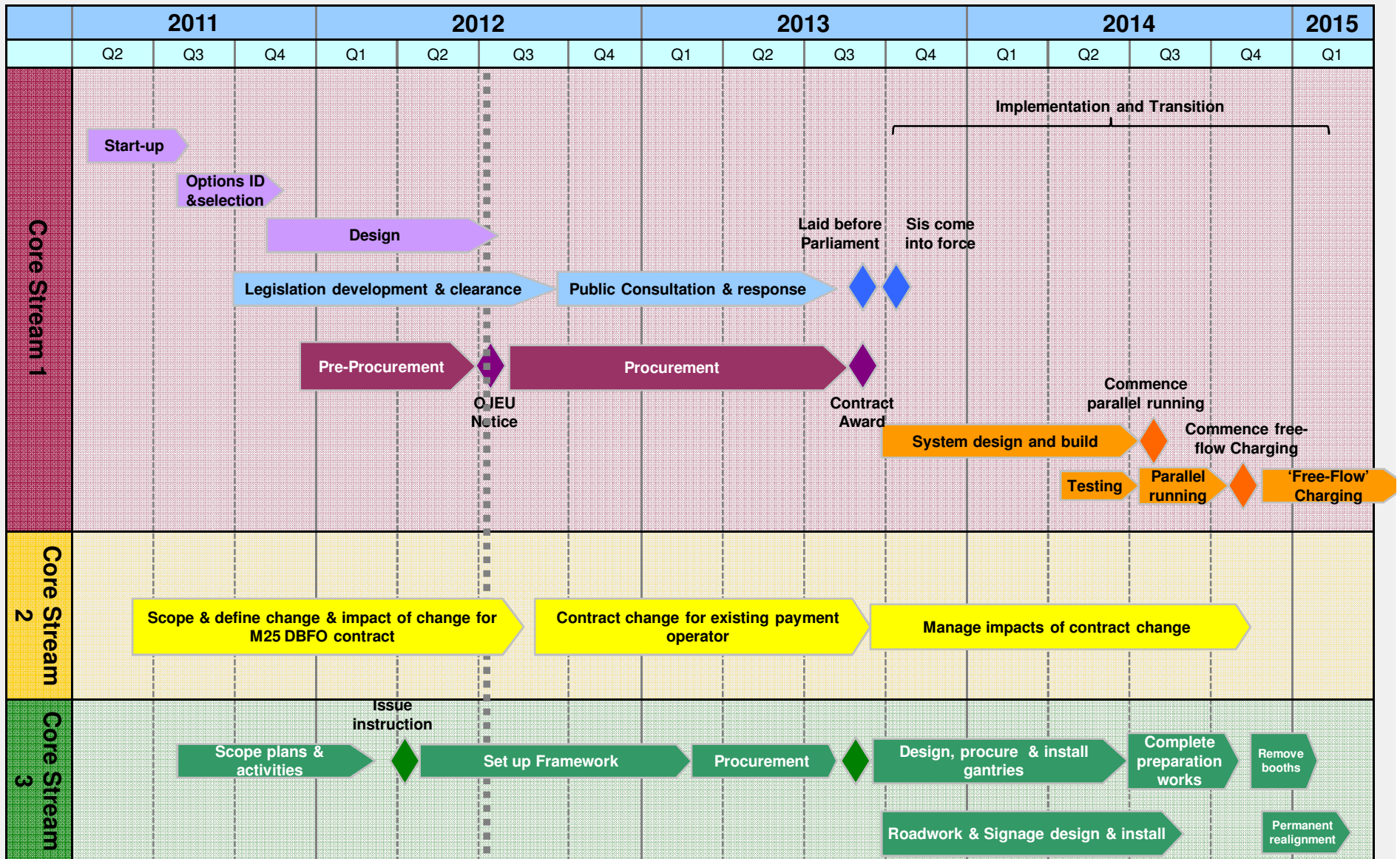
Secondary objectives

- ✓ No degradation of air quality (noise & emissions) at the Crossing;
- ✓ No displacement of traffic onto other regional links;
- ✓ Payment of the charge should be intuitive and convenient for the user; and
- ✓ Effective enforcement should enable the Scheme to maintain the current level of revenue derived from the Crossing.

Project core streams



Indicative high level programme



Dartford 'Free-Flow' Charging Visual September 2011

