

Digital Roads

Digitally Enabled – Connected – Data Driven

Safer Construction and Operations - Faster Delivery- Better Customer Experience

Digital Roads 2025 Roadmap

July 2021



Introduction

“
Digital roads harness data, technology and connectivity to improve the way the strategic road network is designed, built operated and used.”

This will enable a safer SRN, faster delivery, and an enhanced customer experience for all. Digital Roads aligns with our imperatives and is structured around three core themes, all of which are digitally enabled, connected and data driven.

Digital Roads themes:



Digital Design & Construction



Digital Operations



Digital for Customer

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Purpose of this document

This document sets out the key activities and steps that are required to achieve our Digital Roads vision for 2025.

About this document

The key activities and steps required to achieve the Digital Roads vision are mapped to each of the ambition statements (see Digital Roads Brochure). The high level steps are captured in a summary roadmap and the individual steps required to achieve each ambition statement are captured in more detailed roadmaps.

This roadmap presents an indicative timeline of key activities and steps. This will be a living document that will be routinely updated to reflect progress against our 2025 Digital Roads vision.

We welcome involvement and collaboration from a wide range of stakeholders and recognise this is critical for the delivery of our 2025 Digital Roads vision.

For more information please contact:
DigitalRoads@highwaysengland.co.uk

Click to access **Digital Roads 2025**
Summary roadmap



This roadmap is part of a suite of Digital Roads documents, which set out the latest National Highways thinking and approach for Digital Roads:



The Digital Roads Video

Sets out the Digital Roads vision for 2025, structured around the three themes. The video highlights the benefits of Digital Roads for our customers.



Digital Roads Brochure

Outlines the structure and additional detail which makes of the Digital Roads vision for 2025, based on: 3 themes, 9 sub themes and 35 ambition statements.

This document



Digital Roads Interactive Roadmap

Sets out the key activities and steps required to achieve our Digital Roads vision for 2025



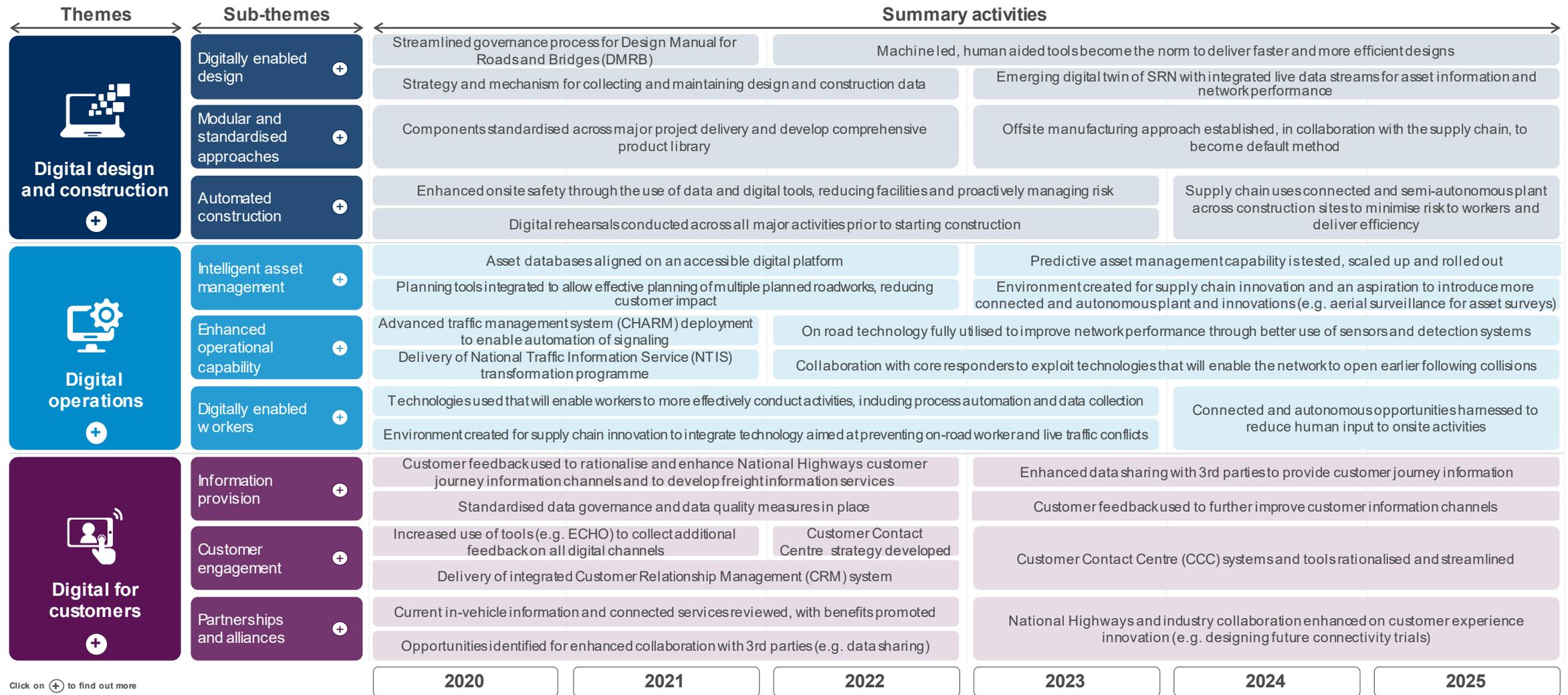
Summary roadmap

Summary roadmap presents key building blocks to realising our 2025 Digital Roads vision. For visualisation, some dates and durations have been shifted or condensed.

Summary roadmap



Summary roadmap



Click on + to find out more

Please note that for visualisation, some dates and durations have been shifted or condensed. Detailed (ambition statement level roadmaps) are presented in the following sections.



Digital design and construction

Our activities will be increasingly automated, modular and conducted off-site. This will result in safer production, reduced network disruption, increased productivity and smoother journeys for our customers.

Detailed roadmap



Digital design and construction – Ambition statements



Ambition Statements: Digital design and construction x

Our activities will be increasingly automated, modular and conducted off-site. This will result in safer production, reduced network disruption, increased productivity and smoother journeys for our customers.

The following ambition statements set out our vision of how digital technology will enable us to achieve 2025 Digital Roads vision.



Digitally enabled design

1. **Digitised requirements** - Our design and construction requirements will be digitised, enabling automated design and seamless integration of connected construction activities (estimation, sequencing and costing).
2. **Effective management and exploitation of data** - We will create and make greater use of available data (e.g. topographical and environmental information) to reduce the need for pre-construction site visits and investigations.
3. **Machine-led, human aided tools** – These will be used to create automated designs and improve accuracy.
4. **Digital twin** - The foundation of Digital Twin will be utilised on projects through the collation and federation of existing data to support network planning and decision making.

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Modular and standardised approaches

1. **Modularised and off-site fabrication** - These will become the default where practical, minimising disruption on the network and delivering a more sustainable approach.
2. **Standardised components** - We will increase the use of standardised components in our designs (based on our digitised construction requirements) in order to maximise efficiency.

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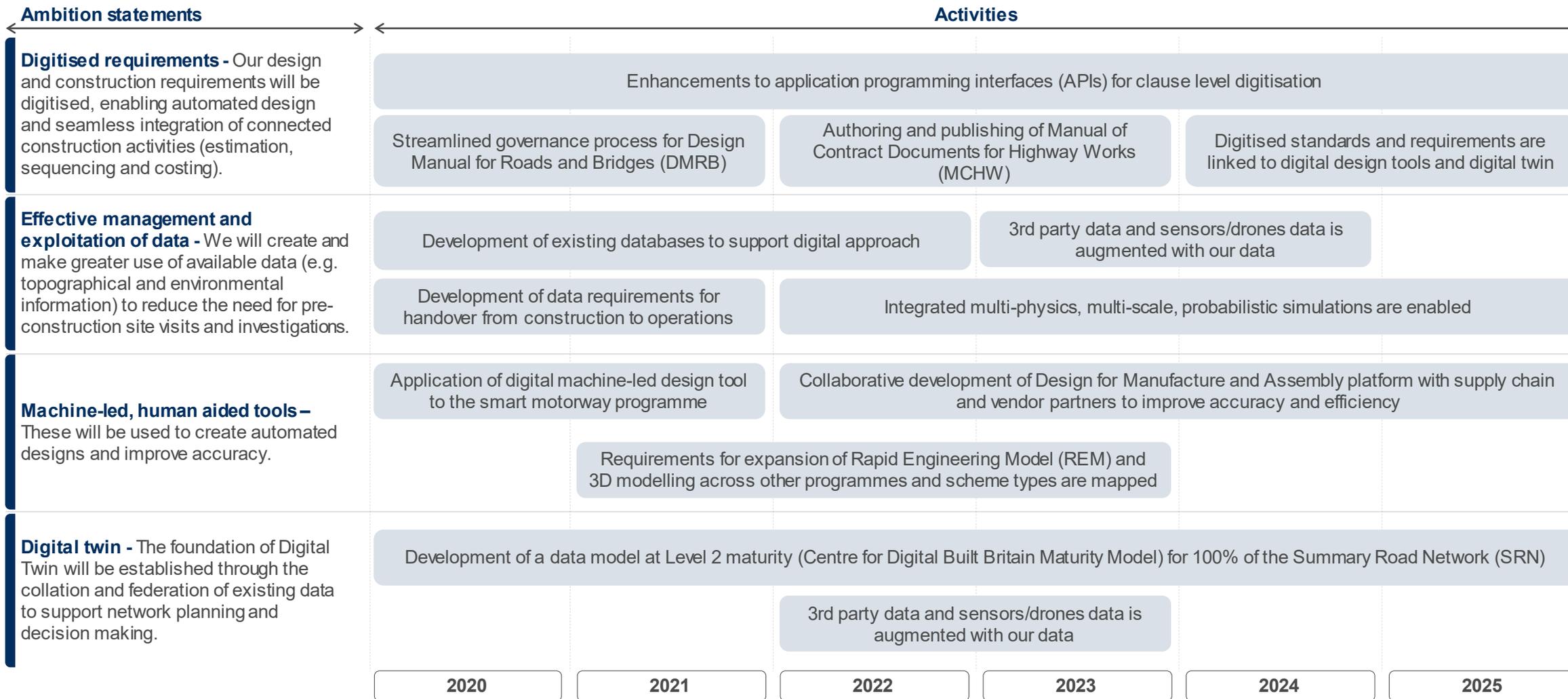


Automated construction

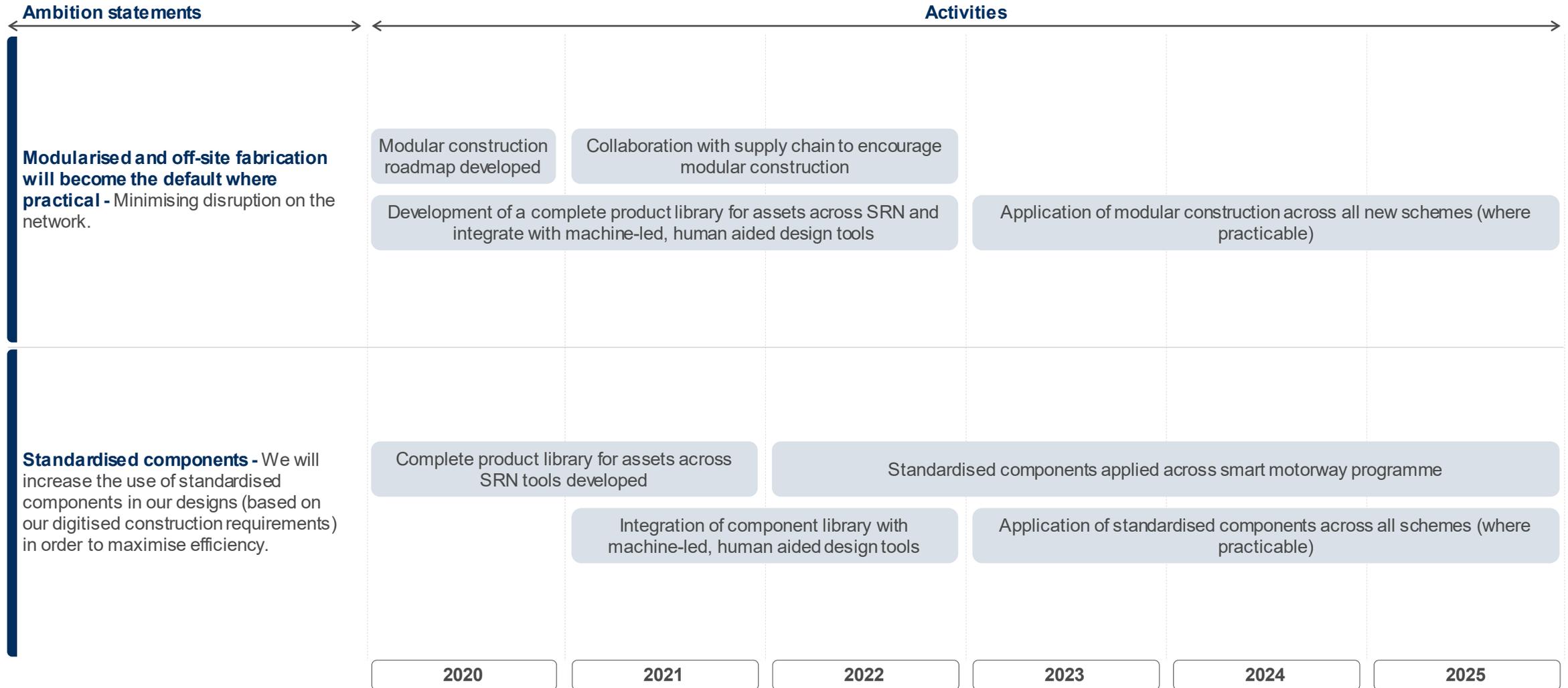
1. **Connected and semi-automated plant (CAP)** - We will reduce plant/site operative conflicts through increased use of connected and semi-automated plant for construction, which would be remotely-operated (potentially off-site) and support 'just in time delivery'.
2. **Enhanced safety on-site** - Sites will become less labour intensive using digital safety tools e.g. briefings and digital rehearsals to reduce the risk exposure of on-site workers.
3. **Digital rehearsal** - We will rehearse site activities using digital simulations to minimise disruption to construction and assembly.

[Click for more](#)

Digitally enabled design



Modular and standardised approaches





Automated construction

Ambition statements	Activities					
<p>Connected and semi-automated plant (CAP) - We will reduce plant/site operative conflicts through increased use of connected and semi-automated plant for construction, which would be remotely-operated (potentially off-site) and support 'just in time delivery'.</p>	Existing contracts and legislation to facilitate use of CAP are reviewed	Supply chain encouraged to further develop CAP solutions and increasingly deploy CAP technologies in the construction of all major projects	CAP levels defined to identify expected capabilities and any necessary adaptations	Revisions to contracts, standards and data-sharing frameworks to facilitate the introduction of CAP		
<p>Enhanced safety on-site - Our sites will increasingly become paperless (with fewer operatives), utilise digital safety briefings and reduce the need for on-site facilities.</p>	Guidance to standardise data use and IT systems on sites	Widespread deployment of advanced analysis of site data to enable decision-making and risk management	Robust data collection across all sites (project data and supply chain data)	Full automation and digitisation of data entry on site (where practicable)		
<p>Digital rehearsal - We will rehearse site activities using digital simulations to minimise disruption to construction and assembly.</p>	Lessons learnt from trials of digital rehearsals captured and collated	Framework of digital rehearsals requirements and tools established	Capability for Digital rehearsal developed across National Highways and the supply chain	Digital rehearsals adopted as standard across all major construction activities	2020	2021
					2022	2023
					2024	2025

An abstract network diagram consisting of a complex web of interconnected nodes and lines, rendered in shades of blue and purple, positioned on the left side of the slide.

Digital Operations

Our operations will leverage data to drive increasingly pre-emptive interventions - resulting in improved asset resilience, increased asset life and a safer, smoother running network.

Detailed roadmap



Digital operations – Ambition statements



Ambition Statements: Digital operations



Our operations will leverage data to drive increasingly pre-emptive interventions - resulting in improved asset resilience, increased asset life and a safer, smoother running network.

The following ambition statements set out our vision of how digital technology will enable us to achieve 2025 Digital Roads vision.



Intelligent asset management

1. **Predictive asset management** – We will apply artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques to enable predictive asset management decision making.
2. **Data and Systems** – We will maximise the value of the data and systems to enable effective asset management.
3. **Digital surveillance** – We will increase the use of aerial surveillance for inspections, particularly where access requires working from height, to improve safety.
4. **Roadworks planning** – We will effectively plan the interaction between multiple planned roadworks. This will enable us to better understand their impact.
5. **Automated and autonomous plant** - We will create the environment for increased use of automated and autonomous plant for asset maintenance activities to improve safety outcomes.

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Enhanced operational capability

1. **Control room technology** - Our updated control room technology will provide greater oversight and control of the network.
2. **On-road technology** – We will fully utilise our current on-road operational technology and 'fine tune' its use to improve network performance.
3. **Sensor technology and data science** - These will be deployed to forecast demand, weather, environmental, traffic and asset conditions, enabling us to pre-emptively prepare and respond.
4. **Reduced closure impact** – We will exploit digital technologies to proactively restrain and divert upstream demand. We will also optimise the flow of traffic through the dynamic use of monitoring equipment and electronic signs.
5. **Improved detection** – We will ensure quicker response times to unplanned incidents through improved detection, automatically updating signs and signals, and through proactive, integrated resource management.
6. **Emergency services** - We will provide emergency services with the data they need to open the road earlier following a collision, capturing timely evidence through the use of CCTV cameras, aerial surveillance and the latest 3D laser scanning collision investigation equipment.

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Digitally enabled workers

1. **IT equipment** - On-road workers will be provided with IT equipment that allows them to conduct their jobs as effectively as possible.
2. **Reduce on-road worker and live traffic conflict** - We will support our supply chain to reduce on-road worker / live traffic conflict creating an environment to exploit technologies to eliminate site incursions.

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Intelligent asset management

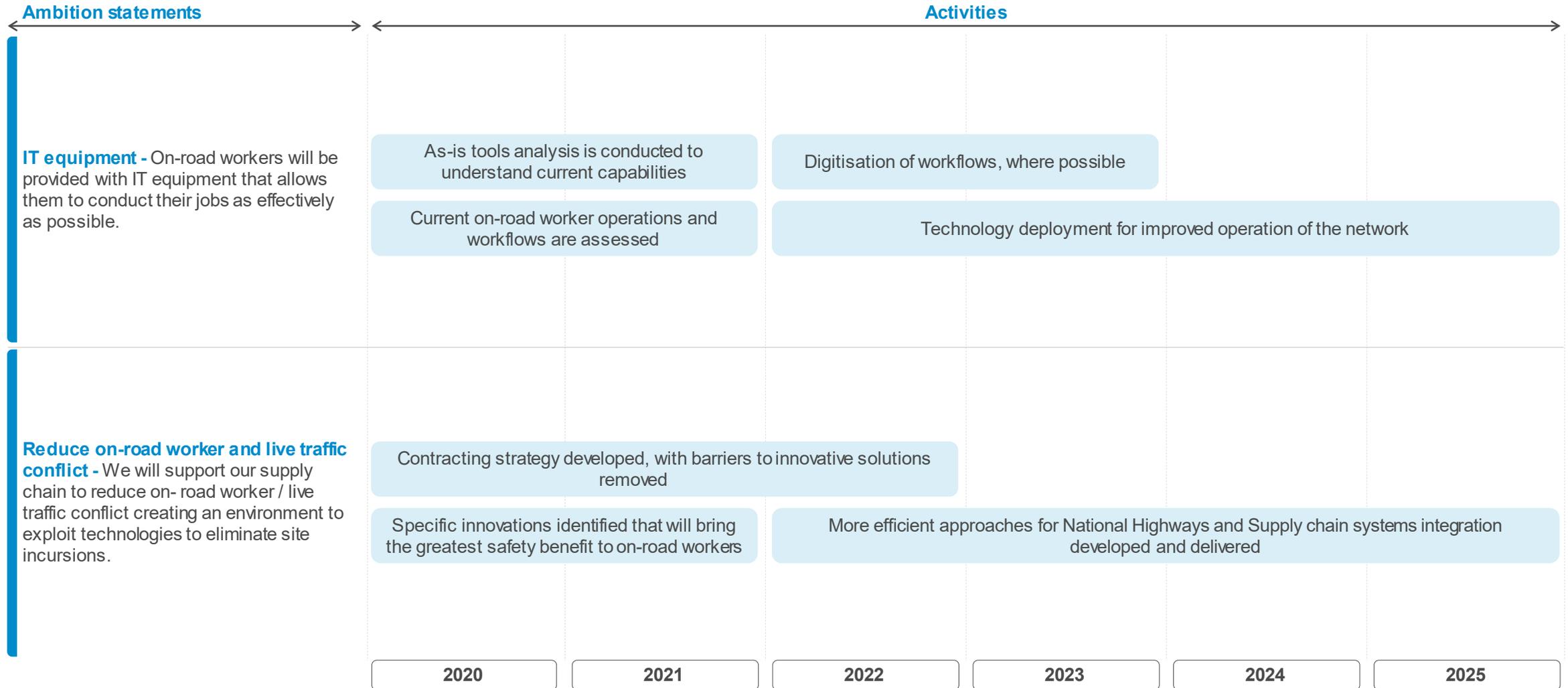
Ambition statements	Activities					
<p>Predictive asset management – We will apply artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques to enable predictive asset management decision making.</p>	Detailed objectives developed	Business cases developed	Minimum viable product to test use cases is delivered		Predictive asset management capability is scaled up and rolled out	
	Technology requirements for predictive analytics identified		Dynamically adapt the use cases from the lessons learnt			
<p>Data and Systems – We will maximise the value of the data and systems to enable effective asset management.</p>	Asset management (inc. data requirements) strategy developed		Mapped ‘to-be’ database states	New database structure implemented		
	RACI for systems and asset data agreed		Data and systems enable intelligent asset management approach			
<p>Digital surveillance – We will increase the use of aerial surveillance for inspections, particularly where access requires working from height, to improve safety.</p>	Implementation of security assessment and updated policy document		Dedicated drone information repository developed		Auditing and monitoring function are embedded within the organisation	
	R&D scope development	Governance defined	3rd party interface agreements	Additional R&D scope development		
<p>Roadworks planning – We will effectively plan the interaction between multiple planned roadworks. This will enable us to better understand their impact.</p>	Processes for planning and design (incl. Major Projects interfaces) streamlined and standardised		Planning tool enabling integrated view of programme progress is used		Updated cross stakeholder decision support model to optimise plans	
<p>Automated and autonomous plant - We will create the environment for increased use of automated and autonomous plant for asset maintenance activities to improve safety outcomes.</p>	Existing contracts and legislations to facilitate use of CAP are reviewed		Supply chain encouraged to further develop CAP solutions and increasingly deploy CAP technologies for maintenance activities			
	CAP levels defined to identify expected capabilities and any necessary adaptations		Revisions to contracts, standards and data-sharing frameworks to facilitate the introduction of CAP			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025

Enhanced operational capability

Ambition statements	Activities					
<p>Control room technology - Our updated control room technology will provide greater oversight and control of the network.</p>	Advanced traffic management system (CHARM) deployment to enable automation of signalling	Enhanced tools to track network performance and resource deployment and inform operational decision-making				
	An end-to-end control approach that provides role clarity and definition of command, control and communication responsibility is built	Digitisation of National Highways workflows and interfaces with supply chain				
<p>On-road technology – We will fully utilise our current on-road operational technology and 'fine tune' its use to improve network performance.</p>	Advanced traffic management system (CHARM) deployment to enable automation of signalling	Gap analysis of on-road technology and implementation of development roadmap				
	Usage of current operational technology assessed	Current on-road operational technology is fully utilised				
<p>Sensor technology and data science - These will be deployed to forecast demand, weather, environmental, traffic and asset conditions, enabling us to pre-emptively prepare and respond.</p>	TOC deployment to enable remote asset monitoring and maintenance	Enhanced National Highways capability to analyse asset performance and make risk-based decisions	Advanced sensor technologies rolled-out			
	Data and technology requirements to enable proactive data maintenance approach defined	Evidence-based predictive maintenance plans created, using data insights as standard				
<p>Reduced closure impact – We will exploit digital technologies to proactively restrain and divert upstream demand. We will also optimise the flow of traffic through the dynamic use of monitoring equipment and electronic signs.</p>	Advanced traffic management system (CHARM) deployment to enable automation of signalling	Improved core capability to exploit digital tech across National Highways and supply chain				
		Development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Machine Learning (ML) based decision tool to support automated incident response	Refined AI & ML based decision tool to support automated incident response			
<p>Improved detection – We will ensure quicker response times to unplanned incidents through improved detection, automatically updating signs and signals, and through proactive, integrated resource management.</p>	Advanced traffic management system (CHARM) deployment to enable automation of signalling	Stopped Vehicle Detection goes live across the smart motorway network				
	Delivery of National Traffic Information Service (NTIS) transformation programme					
<p>Emergency services - We will provide emergency services with the data they need to open the road earlier following a collision, capturing timely evidence through the use of CCTV cameras, aerial surveillance and the latest 3D laser scanning collision investigation equipment.</p>	3D laser mapping used to collect incident information					
		Development of AI & ML based decision tool to support automated incident response	Refined AI & ML based decision tool to support automated incident response			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025



Digitally enabled workers





Digital for Customers

Our customers will be better informed and have trust in the journey information they access, ensuring that they feel safe and in control of their journeys.

Detailed roadmap



Digital for customers – Ambition statements



Ambition Statements: Digital for customers



Our customers will be better informed and have trust in the journey information they access, ensuring that they feel safe and in control of their journeys.

The following ambition statements set out our vision of how digital technology will enable us to achieve 2025 Digital Roads vision.



Information provision

1. **Close to real-time** - The information we provide to our customers will reflect journey experience and network performance in as close to real-time as possible.
2. **Consistency** - Customer information provision on key All-Purpose Trunk Roads will be improved making this more consistent with the level of service provided on our motorways.
3. **Digital channels** - Customers will be kept informed in-journey about disruption and alternative available routes through a range of digital channels.
4. **Roadside technology** - We will assess the impact of in-vehicle communication growth on our roadside technology, being clear on a plan for the future across the SRN.
5. **Signs and signals** - Better use of variable signs and signals to manage traffic flow more efficiently.

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Customer engagement

1. **Customer contact** - Our call centre staff will have access to fit-for-purpose information that enables them to provide excellent customer service.
2. **Better quality data** - We will receive better quality data from our customers, which enhances our own asset and operational data to inform decision making.
3. **Network trials** - Large scale connectivity trials will be informed by customer insights and preferences to improve customer experience and ensure the most appropriate digital channels are utilised.
4. **Working with vehicle manufacturers** - We will improve customer awareness of the technology in their vehicles to improve their experience on the network.

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Partnerships and alliances

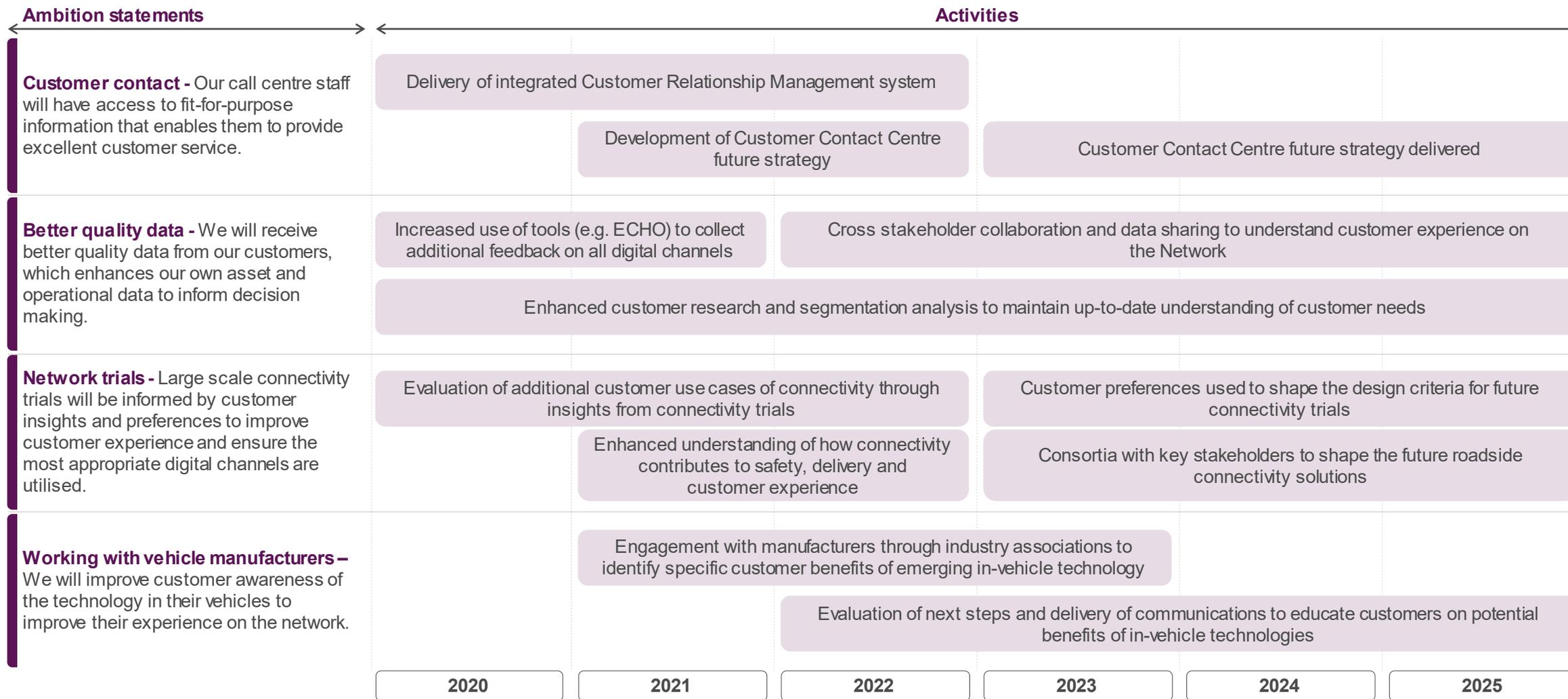
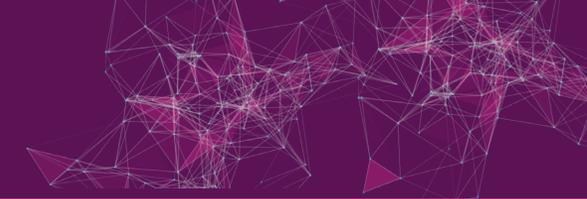
1. **End-to-end journey support** - By working with local highways authorities and other transport operators we will provide our customers with more integrated journey information and a complete picture of network performance.
2. **Better information for the freight and logistics sector** - We will work closely with wayfinding services to improve the quality of information accessed by our customers with a strong focus on the benefits for the freight and logistics sector.
3. **Network changes** - Wayfinding service providers will be notified when new road configurations and important features (such as Emergency Areas) are operational, so that these can be reflected in the third-party applications used by our customers.
4. **Innovation** - We will work with the supply chain and wider private sector to identify and test new opportunities to improve customer service.
5. **Future connectivity** - We will work with industry partners to support larger connectivity trials and the testing of in-vehicle communication.

[Click for more](#)

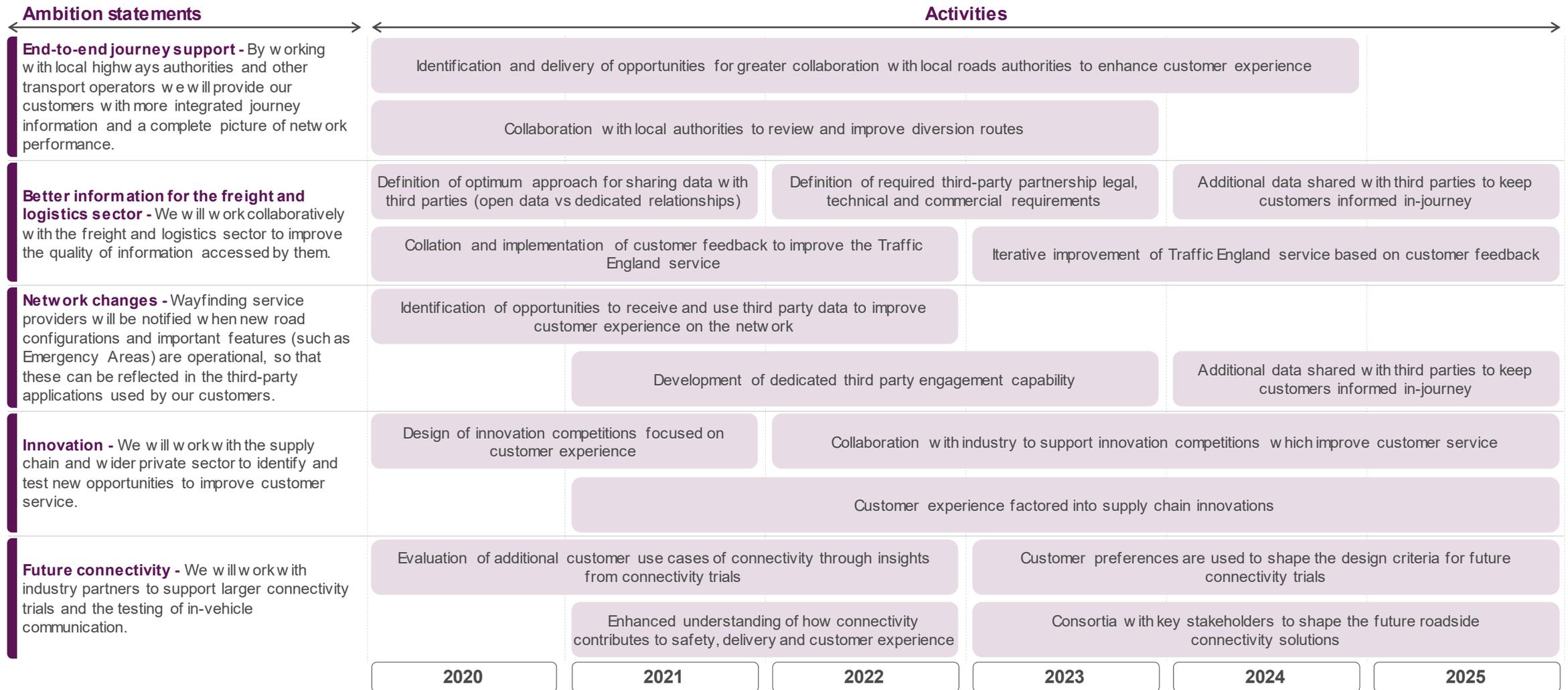
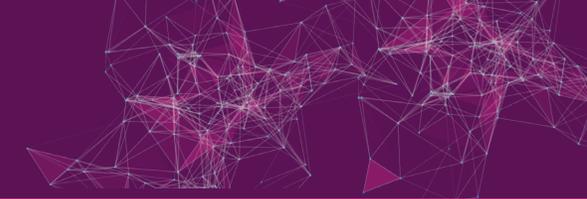
Information provision

Ambition statements	Activities					
<p>Close to real-time - The information we provide to our customers will reflect journey experience and network performance in as close to real-time as possible.</p>	Delivery of NTIS transformation programme		Delivery of the information and data strategy			
	Standardised data governance and data quality measures in place		Enhanced data sharing between National Highways and third parties			
<p>Consistency - Customer information provision on most-used All-Purpose Trunk Roads will be improved making this more consistent with the level of service provided on our motorways.</p>	Delivery of upgrades across the APTR (expressways) with optimised use of technology (inc. VMS) to enhance information provision to customers					
	Development of Connected Services roadmap for the transition to in-vehicle communications		Opportunities to share data with third parties to improve information provision across APTR are established			
<p>Digital channels - Customers will be kept informed in-journey about disruption and alternative available routes through a range of digital channels.</p>	Customer feedback used to rationalise and enhance National Highways customer journey information channels and to develop freight information services		Further improvement to National Highways information provision channels based on customer feedback			
	Opportunities to receive and use third party data to improve customer experience on the network identified		Partnership requirements are defined	Additional data is shared with third parties to keep customers informed in-journey		
<p>Roadside technology - We will assess the impact of in-vehicle communication growth on our roadside technology, being clear on a plan for the future across the SRN.</p>	Development of Connected Services roadmap for the transition to in-vehicle communications		Plan for minimising physical roadside assets of the future developed			
	Use cases for how connectivity will contribute to customer information provision defined		Consortia with key stakeholders to shape the future connectivity solutions			
<p>Signs and signals - Better use of variable signs and signals to manage traffic flow more efficiently.</p>	New messages on electronic signs introduced		Pre-programmed signal settings to automate signs with known events such as roadworks or major sporting events			
	Advanced traffic management system (CHARM) deployment to enable automation of signalling					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025

Customer engagement



Partnerships and alliances



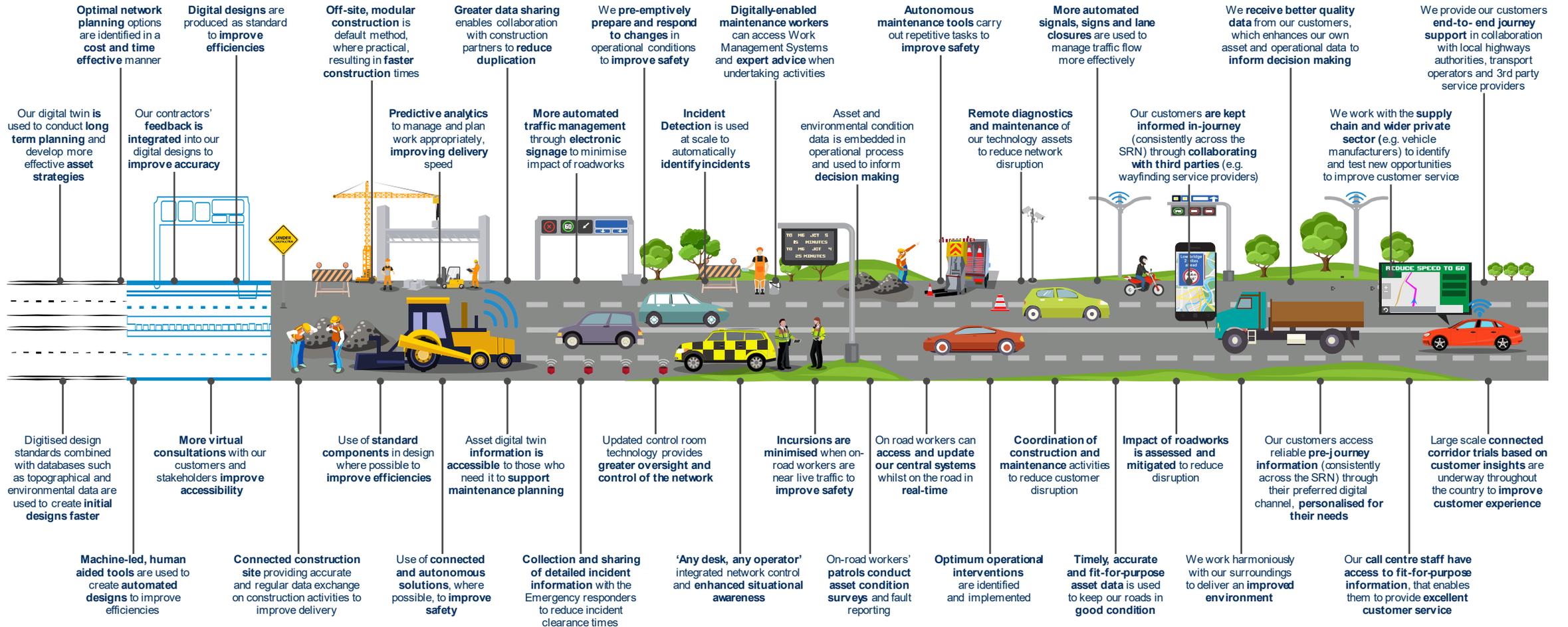


Digital Roads 2025 outcomes

Efficient and timely delivery of our 2025 Digital Roads roadmap will enable safer construction and operations, faster delivery, and better customer experience.

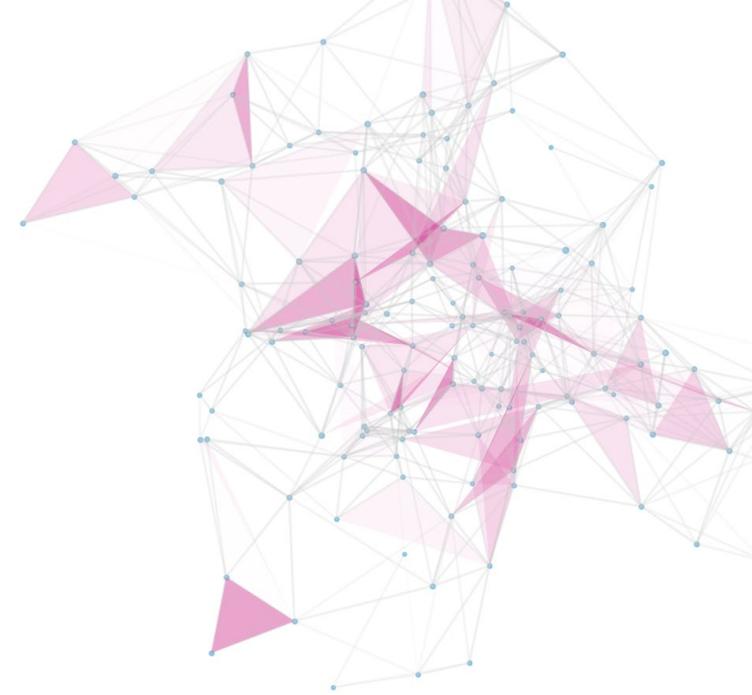
Digital Roads 2025 outcomes

Efficient and timely delivery of our 2025 Digital Roads roadmap will enable safer construction and operations, faster delivery, and better customer experience.



Glossary

CAP	Connected and Autonomous Plant – Please refer to Highways England's 2035 CAP roadmap to understand opportunities, challenges and key activities required to achieve productivity improvements.
CCC	Highways England's Customer Contact Centre
CHARM	Next generation Advanced Traffic Management system being rolled out at National Highways to replace the current system (HATMS).
Data and information strategy	Highways England's vision for data and information management
Digital twin	System-wide, digital representation of our SRN built on a solid foundation of reliable, accurate and real time data feeds. Our long term ambition is to create a digital replica of our SRN, embedded with detailed information on design and operation of our assets, used to monitor the SRN in real-time and provide predictive analytics. This will require multiple live and historical data sources both from our assets and inputs from 3rd parties. Up-to-date data from all available smart assets will enable an understanding of live network status, thereby enabling more informed and strategic decisions around the management of assets, and aligning demand and capacity faster during varying operational contexts on the network (e.g. major events), as well as to continuously improve network operations.
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges that contains all current standards, advice notes and other documents relating to the design, assessment and operation of trunk roads, including motorways. These will be digitised as part of the Digital Roads work.
MCHW	Manual of Contract Documents for Highway Works incorporates the requirements of EU legislation, which are mandatory for all public procurement bodies.
NTIS	National Traffic Information Services - NTIS interfaces with a number of systems from different suppliers to obtain knowledge of Highways England's network of roads in England. It then collates and processes all of this data and intelligence to provide users of the services with the information they need, as quickly and as easily as possible, to help them make informed decisions about travel.
REM	Rapid Engineering Model is a digital workflow that is collaboratively enabled, and has the functionality to analyse digitally captured topographic and environmental data; evaluate suitability of data analysis; automate design layout following the inputted design rules and optimise the design layout according to specific project criteria.



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