



## What the project would deliver

Improving safety, delivering reliable journeys and keeping communities connected.

The A358 road between Taunton and Southfields roundabout, near Ilminster, is essential for people who live and work in the area, and the wider region using the M5 and the A303.

Despite the route being such an important connection, the existing A358 is predominantly single carriageway and at busy times it carries many more vehicles than it was designed for. It also has many local roads and private accesses joining directly with it, which interrupt the flow of traffic and have the potential to create incidents.

Through our improvement to this route, we would:

### **keep people connected to places by:**

- improving connectivity between towns whilst maintaining connectivity between villages
- reducing congestion during peak travel times, weekends and the summer
- allowing traffic to join or leave at new junctions on the A358 without queueing to access local roads from the main carriageway

### **future-proof the route by:**

- reducing congestion and journey times
- reducing traffic through local towns and villages. In Henlade we hope to see average daily traffic levels reducing from 33,500 vehicles to 4,000 by 2038
- providing clear improvements to air quality in the area – we expect the Air Quality Management Area in Henlade to be improved

### **facilitate a growth in jobs, investment and housing by:**

- providing a free-flowing and reliable connection between the area and other parts of the UK
- generating an estimated £37.7m per year for South Somerset and Somerset West and Taunton, as well as creating approximately 630 jobs