



## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London SW1P 4DR

LONDON SW1A 0AA

23 January 2020

*Dear Grant,*

### **Re: RIS2 Investment in A47**

We write to you as MPs representing Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk constituencies to underline the case for more investment in the A47 in the Road Infrastructure Strategy 2 (RIS2).

The A47 is the main east-west economic corridor in East Anglia. As both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor have publicly recognised during their recent visits to the area and in the House, dualling the A47 is vital to support existing businesses and attract more jobs and investment, to improve connectivity, to reduce congestion, to increase journey reliability, to reduce fatalities, and to unlock much needed housing growth in transport corridors.

The A47 Alliance which represents the businesses, local authorities, Local Economic Partnerships, MPs and others along the route wrote to you in December setting out the strategic investment case. There is a common goal of a fully dualled A47 from Lowestoft to the A1 at Peterborough by 2030. However, the agreed priorities for the 2020-25 RIS2 endorsed by us and the Alliance are to commit to investment at three strategic locations along the A47:

- Dualling the Acle Straight to Great Yarmouth in east Norfolk
- Dualling Tilney to East Winch in west Norfolk, including Hardwick flyover dualling at King's Lynn
- Dualling the A47 between the A16 junction east of Peterborough and Walton Highway east of Wisbech. This involves improvements at Junction 15 in Peterborough.

These three priorities would help level up in the East of England and create a £330m uplift in Gross Value Added, generate £200m benefits from enhanced productivity, unlock 125,000 homes restricted by poor regional capacity and 75,000 jobs along the route, bring about benefits of £40m in regional markets by reducing delays and congestion, and reduce additional costs to business due to delays.

We agree with the Prime Minister that this is the right moment for an infrastructure revolution in this country. It is vital that the A47 as an essential part of our national infrastructure is upgraded to promote and accelerate economic growth and prosperity across East Anglia.



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As well as securing this new investment, I would welcome your assurances that Highways England will be held to account and guarantee that all previously committed investment A47 schemes in the Roads Investment Strategy 1 will be delivered by the published target dates.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet you to discuss the A47 before final decisions are taken.

I am copying this letter to the Chancellor.

Yours ever,

James Wild MP  
Member of Parliament for North West Norfolk

Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP  
Member of Parliament for South West Norfolk

Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP  
Member of Parliament for Great Yarmouth

George Freeman MP  
Member of Parliament for Mid Norfolk

Jerome Mayhew MP  
Member of Parliament for Broadland

Richard Bacon MP  
Member of Parliament for South Norfolk

Duncan Baker MP  
Member of Parliament for North Norfolk

Chloe Smith MP  
Member of Parliament for Norwich North

Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP  
Member of Parliament for North East Cambridgeshire

Paul Bristow MP  
Member of Parliament for Peterborough

Peter Aldous MP  
Member of Parliament for Waveney