

FROM: David Gate
Transport Solutions for Lancaster & Morecambe

TO: Rt Hon Lord Andrew Adonis, Secretary of State for Transport

CC: Rt Hon Sadiq Khan MP, Minister of State for Transport

Theresa Villiers MP, Shadow Secretary of Transport

Zac Goldsmith, Conservative Adviser

Norman Baker MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Transport Secretary

Geraldine Smith MP, Morecambe & Lunesdale

County Councillor Keith Young, Cabinet member for Highways & Transportation, Lancashire County Council

DATE: 19 January 2010

Dear Lord Adonis,

I would like to draw your attention to the report published yester by Campaign for Better Transport:

<http://www.bettertransport.org.uk/system/files/HA-billion-pound-gamble.pdf>.

We believe that its important findings fatally undermine the justification for the proposed Heysham M6 Link Road, and mean that it should now be reconsidered.

Research for the Highways Agency, cited in the report, reveals that the benefits forecast for new roads are not realised in practice. In particular:

- Overall traffic levels rose significantly;
- Economic forecasts were inaccurate and the predicted benefits exaggerated;
- CO2 emissions and noise levels were higher, and air quality worse, than predicted;
- Walking, cycling and public transport did not improve;
- Usually, congestion was simply moved elsewhere.

These findings have a direct bearing on the grounds used to justify the Heysham M6 Link; if they are true, the forecast benefits of the road would be cancelled out.

- If traffic levels rise significantly, the claimed benefits of reduced congestion will not happen;
- The claimed economic benefits, low already, could disappear entirely;
- A CO2 increase above the present forecast of 23,500 extra tonnes a year would indeed be devastating;
- Improvements to public transport, walking & cycling are seen as an important benefit, but now look precarious;
- At £140 million, the Value for Money of the scheme looks poor indeed.

In a climate where there must be cuts in the transport budget, this scheme, based on guesswork, which does not solve our transport problems, should not proceed.

Instead, we ask you to support an integrated transport strategy for the Lancaster & Morecambe district, already prepared by transport consultants, which is not being progressed or funded.

Yours sincerely
David Gate
Transport Solutions for Lancaster & Morecambe, Chair

