



Department
for Transport

Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR
Tel: 0300 330 3000

Web Site: www.gov.uk/dft

Chris Todd
Campaign for Better Transport

by email: chris.todd@bettertransport.org.uk

3rd July 2014

Dear Chris,

A27 Corridor Feasibility Study

At the recent Stakeholder Reference Group meeting on 3rd June, I undertook to provide a response to the comments made in respect to the Department's initial proposals for the A27 Corridor Feasibility Study. I apologise for the delay in doing so.

You outlined your concerns about the premise of the Department's Feasibility Studies and we have explained that the Department has committed to undertake these studies in order to identify and fund solutions to tackle a number of notorious and long-standing hotspots on our national road network.

Our approach to these studies recognises that many of the issues have been considered previously and we have been clear that we intend to build on previous work rather than starting from scratch, and the scope document for the A27 study does make reference to previous proposals and related study work. The document also makes clear that the list of the proposals or related studies are not exhaustive and that the study would not rule out consideration of other investment proposals. The scope documents for all of the Department's studies also make clear that in considering potential options, the studies would need to consider a range of individual potential investment options or potential combinations of options.

In terms of your specific drafting changes, the revised scope document does reflect the changes suggested in relation to the questions to be addressed in the study, and the need for the study to consider whether there are additional, complementary improvements to the local transport network to maximise the benefits or mitigate the impacts from the transport investment (question 4, page 4).

You also proposed a number of potential other questions that could be considered by the study. I explained at the Reference Group meeting that as part of the study process the work will consider a range of potential investment options and in doing so would look to assess the performance of options or packages of options against the specific refined objectives that have been developed, following the establishment of the current and future position, and the need for intervention in the first stage of the study.

As you will recall the proposed refined objectives were presented and discussed at the Reference Group meeting and I explained that the assessment of options would be conducted in line with the Department's guidance on appraisal of transport interventions.

We noted the comments made about the make up of the proposed Stakeholder Reference Group and as you know at the Reference Group meeting in June the Terms of Reference and the proposed membership of the Group were discussed and agreed.

I do hope this response addresses the comments you raised about the Department's A27 Corridor Study. Can I thank you again for your input into the Feasibility Study and I am keen to maintain the close co-operation with you as part of the study process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TIM LAWSON', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

TIM LAWSON
Strategic Road Investment Division