



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Louise Haigh MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

5 August 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to raise my concerns about the future of the Gallows Corner flyover restoration project following the Department for Transport's decision to review its capital spend portfolio.

In 2018, the previous Conservative Government invited TfL to bid for funding for the refurbishment of the Gallows Corner flyover as one of only five projects shortlisted for the Major Road Network programme. The flyover was constructed in the 1970s and was only ever meant to be a temporary structure, due to be replaced after 20 years. The structure has now been standing for 50 years and requires extensive refurbishment to remain open. Without urgent investment, TfL have said that the flyover could close as early as next year as it will no longer be safe for traffic.

In the years since commitment to the project was secured, I have been in regular discussion with TfL about the scope and design of the project, encouraging them to progress with the project as swiftly as possible. Regrettably, TfL's own pace in progressing the project has not been as swift as the community hoped however, in May, the Department for Transport awarded £57.3m worth of the £67.4m needed to strengthen and refurbish the Gallows Corner flyover following a successful bid from TfL in 2023.

Were the scheme to be cancelled, the flyover would be closed on a permanent basis. This would have a detrimental effect on journey times across our wider region as it links two of our major roads, the A12 and the A127. Not only that, but the flyover is also an accident hotspot with recorded fatalities in recent years. Just last week, the London Fire Brigade and London Air Ambulance attended another bad crash at the junction. A failure to deliver renewal works and its subsequent closure will lead to potentially dangerous consequences.

Recently, TfL wrote to me explaining their commitment to producing a full business case later this year. There is clearly an appetite, and the political will amongst all parties, to deliver this important infrastructure project.

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I would be grateful if you could provide an answer to the following questions:

1. When can we expect the DfT's review of its capital spend portfolio to be completed?
2. On what basis will the Department decide which schemes to retain in the project?
3. Given the importance and popularity of the Gallows Corner refurbishment project, will the DfT confirm its commitment to delivering this vital infrastructure scheme?

I hope that this letter is helpful in reaffirming the significance of this project to both the local community and the strategic road network in the region. I would welcome any assurance you may offer of the Government's commitment to its fulfilment.

With best wishes,

Julia Lopez MP

Member of Parliament for Hornchurch & Upminster