



HOUSE OF COMMONS

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

LONDON SW1A 0AA

5 December 2024

Dear Minister,

Vital Transport Infrastructure in Hornchurch & Upminster

Congratulations upon your recent appointment as Secretary of State for Transport, I hope that you find the role fulfilling.

I wanted to take the opportunity to highlight three vital transport projects within my constituency that are reliant upon your Department's support for their completion. You will likely be familiar with the first two projects from your previous experience as Deputy Mayor for Transport in the capital.

Gallows Corner Flyover

The refurbishment of this essential flyover has been under discussion for many years and, in 2018, the Conservative government shortlisted it for funding in the Major Road Network programme.

TfL has been slow to make progress in its bid however, in May, the Department for Transport confirmed that it would provide £57.3m of the £67.4m needed to complete the project following the submission of a Full Business Case, due for submission in autumn.

From your time as Deputy Mayor, you will be aware of Gallows Corner's status as an accident hotspot and of its importance within the strategic road network in this corner of London. Furthermore, TfL's own analysis confirms that it could close as early as next year without investment. In this context, I would be grateful for an update on the latest with the project and of your support to ensure its prompt completion.

Step-Free Access to Platform Six, Upminster Station

I have previously set out to the Rail Minister and Minister for Local Transport the importance of this project to provide step-free access to this platform, the only one in Upminster Station not to have it.

In May, the Conservative Government published a list of 50 stations, including platform six at Upminster station, that had been awarded funding to undertake feasibility studies to assess whether they may proceed within the Access for All programme. However, since Labour took office, we have heard nothing about the Government's plans to improve accessibility of the rail network.

I have enclosed with this letter a copy of my most recent submission to the Rail Minister and would be grateful for any additional clarity you may bring on the Government's ambition in this area. This is particularly necessary following your recent announcement that c2c will be among the first rail services to be returned to public ownership.

Telephone: 020 7219 2631
Email: julia.lopez.mp@parliament.uk
Web: www.julialopez.co.uk Twitter: @julialopezmp



Lower Thames Crossing

Finally, it was with considerable alarm that we learned from your predecessor that a decision on the project was delayed until May 2025 at the earliest.

The existing Dartford Crossing can no longer cope with the volume of traffic it sees daily and congestion that this vital crossing costs the UK economy £200m a year. The Lower Thames Crossing would almost double the road capacity crossing the Thames East of London and would unlock up to £40bn to the UK economy, with an additional 400,000+ jobs within an hour's commute of local communities.

The Government has spoken frequently of its growth agenda however, with this decision, your predecessor delayed economic growth broadly equivalent to the amount of taxes raised in the Autumn Budget. I would urge you to ensure that this vital project is not subject to any further delay,

I would welcome your thoughts on these projects and ways in which we may work together to ensure their prompt delivery, for the benefit of my constituents.

*With kind regards,
Julia*

Member of Parliament for Hornchurch & Upminster