



Department
for Transport

Julia Lopez MP
House of Commons
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From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Lilian Greenwood MP

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27 January 2025

Dear Julia,

Thank you for your letter of 5 December to the Secretary of State, regarding vital transport infrastructure in Hornchurch and Upminster, and your further letters of 3 January about Transport for London's (TfL) scheme to refurbish the Gallows Corner flyover. I am replying as the Minister for the Future of Roads.

I appreciate your advocacy for the scheme to refurbish Gallows Corner flyover, which TfL are promoting as part of the Department's Major Road Network/ Large Local Majors programme. TfL submitted a Full Business Case for review and approval in November 2024. Approval would allow TfL to proceed with the refurbishment. The Department is progressing work on the business case as a priority and a decision will be issued as soon as possible.

However, alongside this as you may be aware the Department is undertaking a review of its capital spend portfolio which will directly feed into the cross-government spending review, which is underway. In that context, currently we are unable to provide assurances on any individual project.

Improving accessibility across the rail network is a fundamental objective for this Government, recognising its importance in fostering inclusivity and delivering economic and social benefits. As you are aware, Upminster Station was one of 50 stations shortlisted by the previous Government for feasibility studies under the Access for All programme to assess the potential for step-free access to all platforms, including Platform Six.

The Department is carefully reviewing the programme to ensure that our approach aligns with current priorities and delivers meaningful improvements across the network. Once decisions have been finalised, I will ensure that you, alongside other stakeholders, are fully updated on the next steps for Upminster Station.

As you will be aware, a report and recommendation in relation to the Lower Thames Crossing were submitted by the Examining Authority to the Department on 20 March 2024.

Following a Written Ministerial Statement on 7 October 2024 available here: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2024-10-07/hcws110>, the decision deadline was extended to 23 May 2025 to allow for further consideration of the application, including any decisions made as part of the Spending Review.

All information and updates on this application can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website here: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/TR010032>.

I value your continued engagement on these transport projects and your dedication to improving infrastructure for the benefit of your constituents. The Department will continue to work closely with local stakeholders as these projects progress.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lilian', with a long horizontal stroke underneath it.

LILIAN GREENWOOD MP

MINISTER FOR THE FUTURE OF ROADS