



CRISPIN BLUNT MP
Member of Parliament for Reigate

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Jim O'Sullivan
Chief Executive
Highways England
The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham B1 1RN

Our reference CB/GO

2 May 2017

Dear Mr O'Sullivan.

Hooley Interchange- RIS2

Since my meeting last October with Elise Lewis, former Divisional Director Strategy and Planning whom I believe has since left Highways England, I have been following developments regarding the inclusion of the Hooley M23/A23 Interchange proposal within RIS2. I am aware that his project has now been identified as part of potential highlighted work in the M23 Junctions 7-10 section of the Highways England 'London Orbital and M23 to Gatwick Route Strategy' document dated March 2017, if not in itself as a 'single work programme'.

My understanding is that this means that the project, following recommendations by your retained consultants, Atkins, has not been ruled out and is expected to be given further consideration in the next stage of the RIS2 project selection process. The timing of the next stage is not year clear, but I understand that this will be led by the HE Strategic and Economic Team in London and will involve further examination of the 'economic benefits' of the proposed scheme, and also, presumably a cost estimate for the works.

I am aware that Coast to Capital LEP has provided you with some economic benefits data, but that you have asked them to provide something more substantial which they are currently preparing along with Surrey County Council.

I am also aware that Coast to Capital is working on a larger project to improve transport infrastructure in the Gatwick to Croydon corridor, though the most northerly part of this, within Greater London, falls outside the remit of Highways England and RIS2.

The purpose of this letter is to reiterate my support for this project, not only as a means of alleviating congestion and pollution on this part of the A23 within my constituency, but also as a key means of improving access to the M23 and M25 from Redhill and Merstham, the lack of which currently exacerbates congestion in Reigate and on the A217 leading up to the M25.

I would not want this solution to be postponed yet again or diluted as part of larger long term regional plan which may take years or even decades to implement, and am concerned that this particular piece of work is included in the 2020-2015 works programme of RIS2.

I would therefore be grateful if you could keep me informed of developments, consultations and deadlines so that I can ensure that the argument for including the Hooley Interchange in RIS2 is given the priority and input that is required in a timely manner.

In view of the forthcoming General Election, I understand that the stakeholder liaison meeting on RIS2 scheduled for 12th May and my meeting with John Haynes MP in 16th May are likely to be postponed, but look forward to rescheduling these after the election, assuming that I gain re-election as MP for Reigate.

*Hooley Interchange
Crispin Blunt*

Crispin Blunt

cc Keiran Rix - HE Divisional Director for Strategy & Planning
Jonathan Sharrock – CEO, Coast to Capital LEP
John Furey - Cabinet member for Transport and Environment, SCC