



Department  
for Transport

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From the Secretary of State  
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27 January 2021

*Dear Peter & Daniel,*

Thank you for your invitation to address the East of England APPG in March. Whilst unfortunately I cannot attend I wanted to take the opportunity to confirm our commitment to transport investment in the East of England.

The Spending Review 2020 showed that the Government is delivering major investment in transport infrastructure to unite and level up the UK, with the Chancellor announcing a new Levelling up Fund worth £4bn. This includes investment to: enhance our national network through our portfolio of major projects to deliver a world class national transport network; build our economic regions outside of London by ensuring quality transport connections; and deliver better local transport in our towns and cities via investment in bus and rail services and improvements in rail, cycling and walking.

The Government recognises the East's contribution to the UK economy and is investing in transport infrastructure to improve connectivity and support growth in the area. I was pleased that I was able to announce two transformational road projects in the region: the 'Gull Wing' Lowestoft and the Third River Crossing in Great Yarmouth.

The Lake Lothing Third Crossing or Gull Wing at Lowestoft includes a £73m contribution from DfT towards the local scheme cost of £145m, which will link the northern and southern parts of the town and tackle congestion that has blighted businesses in Lowestoft. This scheme will increase capacity, tackle congestion, support development, strengthen connectivity and improve

reliability and resilience in the local road network, demonstrating the Department's commitment to supporting growth and connectivity in the region.

Further significant investment has been committed to the Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing, which includes a DfT capital contribution of £98m towards the total cost of £121m, creating a new, more direct link between the western and eastern parts of the town. The scheme is expected to provide a much-needed stimulus to the local economy by reducing congestion and improving connectivity between the Port, regeneration areas and the Strategic Road Network. As Great Yarmouth recovers from the effects of the pandemic, investment in this key item of infrastructure will help to build business confidence and attract new employment to the town.

Elsewhere we continue to support the development of the Oxford to Cambridge with a £760m funding commitment for the next phase of work on the East West Rail scheme, between Bicester and Bletchley, enabling services between Oxford and Milton Keynes. The Government reaffirmed its commitment to the Arc with an additional £4m towards the development of a Spatial Framework and to explore the case for up to four Development Corporations along the Central Section of East West Rail. This funding will help deliver sustainable economic and housing growth supported by infrastructure, that meets the needs of local people.

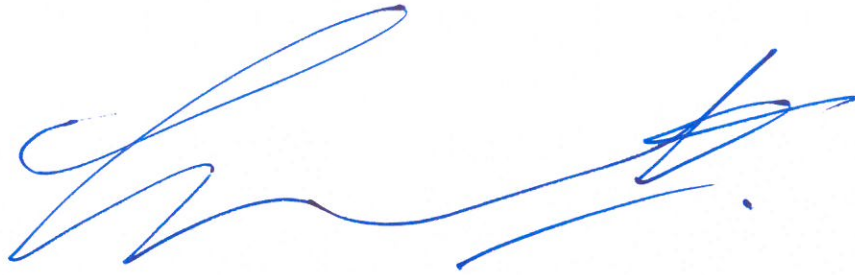
Sustainable transport investment has also continued through the Transforming Cities Fund and I was pleased to see that last year Norwich secured just over £32m in tranche 2, investing in schemes that aim to transform and improve connectivity within the city's transport system.

Transport East has prioritised a number of schemes for inclusion in the Major Road Network and Large Local Majors programme. These include the Norwich Western Link, Long Stratton Bypass, A12 East of Ipswich Improvements, and schemes on the A127 in Essex. My officials are working with the local authorities involved to help them develop business cases.

Finally, my officials continue to work closely with Transport East, who received their first funding settlement this financial year of £425k and are progressing a new transport strategy for the area.

I trust this has demonstrated not only our continuing commitment to invest in the East and to levelling up our regions outside of London, but also highlighted the work that the Department has been doing in close partnership with local authorities to support growth in the East.

Yours Ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Grant Shapps', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP**

**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**

*All best wishes.*

*As an Eastern Region  
MP, I wish the  
APPG well.*