



East of England

All Party Parliamentary Group

Co-Chairs: Jess Asato MP and Andrew Pakes MP

Vice-Chairs: Blake Stephenson MP & Marie Goldman MP

Sent by email on 11/12/24

Dear Heidi

REQUEST TO MEET

The urgent need for Government commitment to Ely and Haughley junction improvements

Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State for Transport. We wish you every success in your new role.

We would like to request a meeting with you to discuss why the East of England's MPs and Peers, business leaders and other stakeholders - including the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, EELGA, Transport East and England's Economic Heartland - believe you should prioritise investment in Ely and Haughley junction improvements in your Department's bid to the Treasury's Spending Review next year.

In brief, upgrading Ely and Haughley Junctions would directly contribute to your Department's strategic priorities as it would:

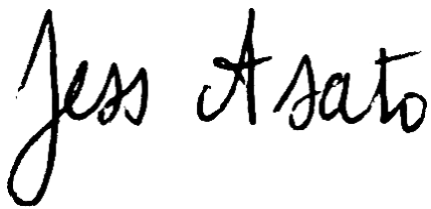
- **Improve the performance on the railways** - By increasing capacity and reducing bottlenecks, and stimulating 277,000 extra rail passenger journeys per year. The scheme has a remarkably high benefit-cost ratio, returning £4.89 of benefits for every £1 invested.
- **Transform infrastructure to work for the whole country** - The new freight services will primarily serve freight terminals in the Midlands, North and Scotland, reduce pressure on London's rail network, and reduce congestion by 5.6 million hours per year (Ely is referenced in the strategies of Transport for London, Transport for the North and Midlands Connect)
- **Deliver greener transport** - By supporting modal shift to rail, Ely will remove the need for 98,000 HGV journeys every year, reducing carbon emissions by 1.7m tonnes of CO2 over 60 years.

Overall, Ely and Haughley Junction improvements would help deliver economic growth across the UK which, as you know, is one of the Government's central missions. Moreover, by unlocking 2,900 extra freight services to and from the Port of Felixstowe every year, improvements to Ely and Haughley rail junctions will be pivotal to Great British Railways meeting ambitious targets for national rail freight growth. They would also have transformational benefits for passengers.

We are delighted to share with you an updated version of England's Economic Heartland and Transport East's *Keeping Trade on Track* document, setting out the case for upgrading Ely and Haughley junctions. **It highlights the unprecedented levels of cross-party, cross-sector, cross-business and cross-regional support for getting on and delivering these projects.**

We look forward to meeting you to discuss in more detail our reasons for the importance of investment in these two schemes. Regarding finding a time to meet that would suit your busy diary and ours, please would your officials liaise with Steve Barwick who provides the Secretariat of the East of the England APPG and has sent this email on our behalf.

Yours sincerely



Jess Asato MP
Co-chair, East of England APPG
APPG



Andrew Pakes MP
Co-chair, East of England



Marie Goldman MP
Vice Chair, East of England APPG



Blake Stephenson MP
Vice Chair, East of England APPG



Cllr Graham Butland Chair
the East of England LGA



Dr Nik Johnson,
Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Will Quince
Chair, Transport East

CLlr Liz Leffman
Chair, England's Economic Heartland

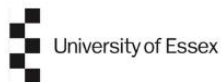
CC Rt Hon Darren Jones MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury in respect of his work on the National Infrastructure Strategy

Sent by Steve Barwick, Director, East of England APPG Secretariat

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