

From: Enrico [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 September 2015 23:26
To: M4 Junction 3-12 Smart Motorway
Subject: Open Floor Hearing Request

Dear Examining Authority,

I am interested to understand more about the proposed M4 scheme and I would like a chance to comment on proposals to make the M4 a 'Smart Motorway'. Please could you schedule an Open Floor Hearing in Reading? I will be available to attend any evening session from Nov 17-19.

It seems evident that a "Smart Motorway" is a good plan to smooth M4 traffic, reduce congestion, and reduce total vehicle emissions. However it seems excessive costs will be incurred to enact the "widening" portion of the plan and will likely result in an illegal increase in emissions at specific nearby areas. The plan to operate a continuous running hard shoulder is unnecessary and unsafe. Advice from motoring organisations was not sufficiently taken into account and the plan has been designed with only the absolute minimum of safety requirements by regulation rather than according to available data.

A less expensive and still suitable option to operate a Smart Motorway with widening localised to junction ramp extensions without bridge work should be considered. Should it be found that bridge widening is necessary at some point in the future then a more comprehensive widening of the motorway with possible installation of an additional lane may be considered while retaining a hard shoulder. Before any action to increase capacity funds should be dispersed to connecting towns and cities to model the knock-on effects of increased traffic flux and results analysed.

Many Thanks,
Enrico Petrucco

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