



Cllr Andrea Davis
Peninsula Transport Chairman
c/o Plymouth City Council
Communications
Ballard House
Plymouth PL1 3BJ

[REDACTED]

1 April 2022

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down

I am pleased to provide this representation on behalf of the Peninsula Transport Sub-National Transport Body in support of the A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down road improvement scheme. The Peninsula Transport Sub-National Transport Body, comprises of elected members representing Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council, Somerset County Council and Torbay Council.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our unanimous support for the much-needed improvements to the A303/A358/A30 corridor. We have welcomed the schemes included within the Road Investment Strategy (A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down, A303 Sparkford to Ilchester and A358 Taunton to Southfields) and continue to support their progression through the DCO process. Delivering on the commitment to improving the A303/A358/A30 corridor to create a safe, efficient and resilient second strategic route is vital to our region's economic growth and the resilience of our transport connectivity with the rest of the UK.

Improving the standard of the strategic road links serving the South West peninsula will be important in ensuring the region is better connected, whilst unlocking its potential for economic growth and supporting plans to deliver more homes and jobs. Investment into our strategic transport links also will have wider implications for the rebalancing of the UK economy and harnessing the productivity potential of the peninsula. The South West peninsula economy is under-performing compared to the rest of the UK and without improvement, the lack of connectivity within the region will continue to present a barrier to growth and prosperity, and limit the potential for levelling up across the region.

Peninsula Transport is currently undertaking a comprehensive work programme to understand where there are opportunities and identify weaknesses across the South West peninsula transport network. This work programme will ultimately result in a detailed transport strategy for the South West peninsula. The 'Strategic Economic Corridors Study' currently in production identifies the A303 as part of one of three key transport corridors. Investment in this corridor is also expected to complement and contribute to improving wider regional connectivity.

An independent economic assessment, commissioned by the A303/A30/A358 Steering Group, indicates that improving the whole corridor would deliver the following benefits over a standard 60 year appraisal period:

Peninsula Transport is the Shadow Partnership Board – Sub Regional Transport Body for the South West Peninsula formed of Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay Councils

- Create 21,400 jobs and deliver a £41.6bn boost to the economy
- Deliver £21.2bn of taxation, welfare savings, disposable income and tourism benefits
- Create £1.9bn in transport benefits from reduced journey times and greater resilience
- Save 1807 fatal or serious casualties
- Reduce carbon emissions by 9%

The removal of the Stonehenge bottleneck through the Amesbury to Berwick Down road improvement scheme is an important element of the whole route upgrade. However, the remaining schemes to upgrade the full A303/A358/A30 corridor must also be prioritised in future investment pipelines in order to create a safe, efficient and resilient second strategic route between London and the South West peninsula.

We urge the Secretary of State to provide approval to the A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down DCO to enable the South West economies to continue to grow and thrive. This opportunity to level up the South West must not be missed.

Yours sincerely

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Councillor Andrea Davis

Chairman, Peninsula Transport
Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, Devon County Council