From:
To:
A303 Stoneheng

Subject: A303 Stonehenge Road Widening Scheme Comment

Date: 04 April 2022 11:55:28

Dear Secretary of State,

I wish to make a submission to the review of the scheme to widen the A303 as it passes Stonehenge.

I continue to oppose the scheme because of the large scale damage the construction will cause to the World Heritage Site and because a construction project such as this and increasing road capacity runs counter to the imperative for this country to massively reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

As I understand it, National Highways have not made changes to the scheme that take the decision of the World Heritage Committee decision of July 2021 into account. The scheme could still have a serious impact on the integrity of the Stonehenge site and means that there is still a risk that Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites will be put on the list of World Heritage in Danger.

As well as alternative routes or schemes, there is the alternative of reducing the amount of traffic on this road and the damage of emissions from the road traffic. As a resident of Salisbury I know that the bus services in this area are expensive, not very reliable and often infrequent. Cycling to Stonehenge or Amesbury from Salisbury (I am a cyclist) is difficult and dangerous for at least some of the journey - we have a poor, incomplete cycle network. There is little incentive or support for local residents not to use their car to get around. The single line rail track west of Salisbury to Exeter with relatively slow trains that are also quite expensive is also not encouraging for longer distance travellers to ditch the car. The alternative London Paddington service to Exeter and Cornwall is faster but also significantly more expensive.

The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is alarming. It adds to the weight of evidence that means the last thing the Government should be planning is a scheme such as this that will increase greenhouse gas emissions. I do not understand how road building plans, including this scheme, is in any way in line with the Government's own commitment to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2050.

Yours Sincerely,

Alex Raws

