

From: [Hannah Clark](#)
To: [A303 Sparkford to Ilchester](#)
Subject: Peninsula Transport Representation
Date: 16 September 2020 16:58:44
Attachments: [200915 A303 Sparkford to Ilchester.pdf](#)

Good afternoon

Please find attached a letter from Peninsula Transport regarding the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester DCO.

Kind regards

Hannah

Hannah Clark

Principal Transport Planning Officer

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Dear Secretary of State,

Re: A303 Sparkford to Ilchester

I welcome the opportunity to respond to the applicant's response to the Secretary of State's 'minded to refuse' letter on behalf of Peninsula Transport STB, comprising of representatives of Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council, Somerset County Council and Torbay Council.

The A303 Sparkford to Ilchester scheme, along with other schemes currently being progressed at Amesbury to Berwick Down and Ilminster to M5 at Taunton, are vital first steps towards achieving a whole route improvement and as such are strongly supported by Peninsula Transport. It is therefore of great concern that the Secretary of State is minded to refuse the application given its strategic importance to the South West Peninsula.

Together with the M3, the A303/A358/A30 road corridor makes up one of only two routes from London to the South West, saving approximately 30 miles when compared to the M4/M5 route. The A303/A358/A30 corridor improvements will provide much needed resilience to the South West accessibility. Investments in the A303/A358/A30 corridor are also vitally important to the UK and South West economy, with wider implications for the rebalancing of the UK economy and harnessing the productivity potential of the Peninsula region. This is particularly pertinent whilst the South West seeks to establish an economic recovery in response to the effects of the pandemic.

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:

- 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 strategic importance of the whole route improvement must not be underestimated, and the Sparkford to Ilchester scheme would provide an essential first step. The refusal of the DCO would severely jeopardise the potential for achieving a comprehensive corridor improvement. On behalf of Peninsula Transport, I would urge the Secretary of State to seek a resolution to the outstanding issues rather than refusing the application. This will enable essential initial investment in vital infrastructure to unlock the full potential of the South West Peninsula.

Kind regards,



Geoff Brown.
Chair of Peninsula Transport