

WINCHESTER DISTRICT GREEN PARTY - M3 Junction 9 Improvement Project

Interested Party Reference number: 20036782

contact@winchester.greenparty.org.uk

Response to Your Email: TR010055 – M3 Junction 9 Improvement

Dear Sir or Madam,

Many thanks for your email inviting us to respond. Despite the changes mentioned we continue to object to the application of the M3 Junction 9 'Improvement'.

We urge that the forecast of economic growth has already been proven to be overoptimistic and therefore the economic need for this project is not given. The costs of this project have increased substantially due to the rise of inflation. Therefore, it has tipped the balance of cost/ benefit even less favourable.

In our view, there is lack of evidence that this project is necessary and alternatives have not been looked at with the respect required. The ever increasing funds for this project should instead be invested in alternatives to road based traffic, i.e. increasing capacity of rail, better bus services, improved cycle infrastructure, improved planning to reduce the need for car traffic.

Over the last few years, we have seen less of an increase in car traffic as predicted while more people work from home. Furthermore, this project is contradictory to the recently agreed Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4 by Hampshire County Council) that aims to reduce car traffic and instead encourage other means of movement and active travel. LTP4 "*...proposes a major shift in approach and emphasis, with an increased focus on policies which support modal shift and manage demand for road space, rather than just supplying the extra capacity to meet this demand.*"

Following a recent shift in policies on national, regional and local levels towards reduction in car use and increase towards active travel modes, we demand that the traffic expectations will be reviewed and adjusted. Realistic traffic growth figures would give a negative return on investment and make this project unviable. It is likely to be a waste of public funding and tax payers money.

Given that the government's own Climate Change Committee has suggested that it was necessary to reduce car traffic rather than to increase it by extending the motorway scheme

this scheme should not be allowed to go ahead. Extending this junction is in conflict with the 2015 Paris Agreement to reduce carbon emissions and against the Carbon Zero targets set nationally by the government and locally by Winchester City Council.

Finally, in our view, it contradicts the purpose of Levelling Up. This project will increase further traffic, further pollution and noise which has negative environmental and health implications.

We trust that you take our points into consideration and hope that this project will be stopped for economic, environmental and health reasons.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss this in further detail.

Yours Faithfully,

Max Priesemann – Co-Coordinator WDGP
On behalf of Winchester District Green Party