



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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05 MAR 2015

PRIVATE OFFICE

RNC

[REDACTED]
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

3rd March 2015

Our Reference

[REDACTED]

RE: Possible delays to Ely North Junction upgrade project.

I have been contacted in connection with the above subject.

I enclose a copy of some relevant correspondence from the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I would be very grateful if you could come back to me to let me know
what the up to date position is with this project.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

King regards.



Department
for Transport

[REDACTED]
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
[REDACTED]

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

E-Mail: [REDACTED]

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

Your Ref: [REDACTED]

31 MAR 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

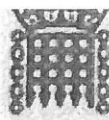
Thank you for your letter of 3 March, enclosing correspondence from [REDACTED] about possible delays to the Ely North Junction upgrade project.

Network Rail's scheme development has taken longer than expected because more assessment has been required than initially foreseen of the interaction between the junction upgrade and the nearby level crossings.

Just north of the junction are the three Queen Adelaide level crossings. The diverging rail layout from Ely North junction means it is possible for road traffic stopped for one crossing to queue back to obstruct a second crossing. Recent safety guidance on Automatic Half Barrier level crossings suggest it is sensible to develop the Ely North Junction scheme alongside developing an understanding of what alteration may be required to nearby crossings. There is both growth in passenger and freight trains services to allow for and growth and change in Ely road traffic to accommodate, the latter requiring close work with the local authority to understand.

This delay to the scheme development may mean the end delivery date for the Ely North Junction project moves back, but Department officials have made clear to Network Rail we expect completion by early 2019. The junction improvements are required if both the forecast growth in Felixstowe freight traffic and the enhanced Kings Lynn service is to be operated.

I hope this information is of use to you and [REDACTED]



House of Commons

London SW1A 0AA

Westminster 0207 219 7151 / Thetford 01842 757345

Dear Secretary of State for Transport

In March 2014 Network Rail announced that the upgrade of the Ely North Junction would take place in Control Period 5 (CP5), commencing 2016 with completion 2017. Working jointly with local councils, landowners and Department for Transport the scheme was already well progressed with plans to commence works at the end of this year. At a projected cost of £35 million, the government had committed £16 million to the scheme with the remainder coming from local councils, Network Rail and developer contributions.

In July this year the Department for Transport announced that a review of all works in CP5 would now take place. Ely North is a key junction on the East Anglian rail network which once the upgrade is completed will facilitate half hourly train services on the Downham Market and Thetford routes as well as improved cross country and freight services offering an economic boost of £220 million. There will be even further benefits in terms of housing growth, new business attracted to the area, more jobs that have not been included in the £220 million figure. The upgrade will also facilitate the Wisbech to Cambridge Science Park line which is critical to the development of up to 10,000 new homes in and around Wisbech and the Ely Bypass is also one of Greater Cambridgeshire and Greater Peterborough LEP's top priorities for delivery alongside the A14.

The following services pass through Ely North.

- Norwich to Cambridge, currently hourly service
- Norwich to Liverpool via Peterborough, hourly
- Ipswich to Peterborough, two hourly

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- King's Lynn to London, half hourly at peak times, hourly at other times. Franchise commitment specified by government to deliver half hourly services throughout the day from May 2017
- Birmingham to Stansted, hourly
- Freight services from Felixstowe and King's Lynn.

The original target for the upgrade to be completed was 2017 however concerns have been raised that this timetable may not be met. With passenger numbers increasing and the economic boost that rail routes generate, we would be extremely grateful if this upgrade can be treated as a priority by the Department for Transport.

Best wishes



Department
for Transport

[REDACTED]
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Patrick McLoughlin

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: patrick.mcloughlin@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

[Handwritten signature]

15 OCT 2015

[REDACTED]
Thank you for your letter of 18 September 2015, co-signed by MPs, council leaders and Local Enterprise Partnership leaders, making the case to continue with the upgrade of Ely North Rail Junction as a regional priority.

This Government has embarked on the biggest programme of railway modernisation since the Victorian era and I expect Network Rail to invest £38 billion in the five-year period to 2019. Both this investment and HS2 are vital to secure this country's economic growth and we will deliver them. As I explained to Parliament on 25 June, important aspects of Network Rail's investment programme are costing more and taking longer. I have taken action to reset the programme and get it back on track.

Sir Peter Hendy – who has a proven record of delivering on major transport challenges – is the new Chair of Network Rail and will develop proposals for how the rail upgrade programme will be carried out. He will report back to me in the autumn with his proposals to re-plan the rail investment portfolio and I will update Parliament at that time. I do not want to pre-empt his findings but I do recognise the extent of your support and the concern you have expressed to ensure the upgrade of Ely North Junction continues.

The growth in rail demand in East Anglia is substantial and our franchise plans recognise this. I am strongly supportive of the efforts being made to generate economic growth through new and enhanced rail services, and commend the work being done by local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships and others to maximise the potential of rail services in the region. I have asked my officials to continue to work with you on this, once Sir Peter has reported back to me this autumn.

y - e
Patrick

THE RT. HON. PATRICK McLOUGHLIN