



Department for Transport

Jasmine Farquharson
Committee Assistant, Committee Services
Greater London Authority
City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way
London
E16 1ZE

From the Secretary of State
Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: heidi.alexander@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

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Dear Jasmine,

Thank you for your email of 15 May regarding motions agreed by the London Assembly at plenary Meetings in 2023 and 2024. I understand that a letter was sent to former Secretary of State Mark Harper in 2023 and that you have not yet received a response.

Motion 3.4 – Hammersmith Bridge

I am aware of the impact that the ongoing closure of Hammersmith Bridge to private motor vehicles and public transport has had on the levels of congestion in South-West London.

As such, my department is continuing to work productively with the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF) and Transport for London (TfL) to explore possible solutions, and HMG has provided the Borough with almost £17 million of funding to date. This includes £4 million invested in emergency exploratory works following the full closure of the bridge; £2.93 million of funding for the initial stabilisation works in May 2022; £2.5 million for geo-technical works in March 2023; £2.9 million for the temporary resurfacing of the Hammersmith Bridge carriageway in March 2024; and £4.7 million for repairs to the Hammersmith Bridge hangers in March 2025.

As a next step, my predecessor decided to reconvene the Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce (which last met in November 2021). This therefore reconvened on 30 January. Taskforce attendees discussed a range of prospective engineering solutions for the next stage of works on Hammersmith Bridge. It was a productive session, with time taken to reflect on the ongoing impact on those living and working in South-West London.

Given the challenging fiscal environment, any solution to the Hammersmith Bridge closure will require a proportionate and appropriate sharing of the cost between partners and an agreed engineering solution.

My officials are continuing to progress work on the viable engineering solutions discussed at the Taskforce, and further updates will be made available in due course.

Motion 3.6 – HS2

Transport is an essential part of our mission to boost economic growth across Britain, and I am committed to delivering infrastructure that works for the whole country. I am considering advice on options to improve connectivity between our major cities and will set out plans in due course.

With construction now well underway, this government's current focus is the safe delivery of HS2 between the West Midlands and London Euston at the lowest reasonable cost. I share your concerns about the level of public expenditure on HS2, which is why this government has taken urgent action by tasking new CEO Mark Wild with resetting the project to bring costs and delivery back under control. Additionally, we recently published and accepted all the recommendations of the Major Transport Projects Governance and Assurance Review. The review, which was led by senior infrastructure delivery adviser James Stewart, investigated the effectiveness of forecasting and reporting of cost, schedule and benefits, as well as actions to deliver cost efficiencies. In line with the review, we have made clear to HS2 Ltd and its suppliers that the priority is to deliver the railway safely and at lowest reasonable cost for taxpayers.

This government has taken action to make progress and end the uncertainty at Euston. In the Budget of Autumn 2024, the Chancellor announced that we would bring HS2 to Euston, and more recently as part of the Spending Review, she confirmed that £25.3 billion would be provided for HS2, which includes funding to build the tunnels from Old Oak Common to Euston, along with funding for design and enabling works for Euston. Tunnel boring machines are already being assembled at Old Oak Common, and preparations are underway to enable tunnelling to commence.

Finally, the 10-Year Infrastructure Strategy announced that a Euston Delivery Company will be established to oversee private finance and development proposals for the station, working closely with the Greater London Authority and the London Borough of Camden to grow a commercial and life sciences core around the station, and deliver affordable housing and regeneration in the surrounding area.

Motion 3.7 – Vision Zero Targets

I want to assure you that this government is not complacent. We treat road safety with the utmost seriousness, and we are committed to reducing the numbers of those killed and injured on our roads. My department is developing our Road Safety Strategy and will set out more details in due course.

I appreciate the Assembly sharing their agreed motions and hope this response will communicate current government policy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Heidi Alexander', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'H' and a long, sweeping tail.

Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT