

Our Ref: MPD 22381873
Your Case Ref: MG24880

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
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Dear Michael Gove

M3 junction 3 / A322 improvements

Thank you for your email of 19 August 2022 to my colleague Chris Welby-Everard, concerning M3 Junction 3/A322 improvements. I am responding as Nicola Bell has now moved roles within National Highways and I am Interim Regional Director for Operations.

You raised 4 questions in your email, and I shall answer them in order for clarity

1. Are there any further interim measures that National Highways are considering at this location?

I can confirm that since the lighting at this junction was adjusted to improve its performance, we continue to monitor the traffic data and will amend if necessary. We are currently in the early stages of investigating the possibility of improving the traffic signal control by cross-linking the Urban Traffic Control (UTC) to Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuation (MOVA) which could potentially improve through-put especially for the southbound off slip during the peaks.

2. Has this location been officially identified as a problem and a potential larger major improvement project by National Highways as part of the Route Study process?

Our Route Manager for the M3 Greg Stone is aware of stakeholders concerns at this location and peak time congestion. It is one of several areas we would like investigated when the opportunity arises.

3. If so, can you please clarify what priority this junction/potential larger major improvement has been given through this process?

Our current process for promoting improvements is through the Roads Investment Strategy (RIS) process.

Schemes are identified from information collated from both an online tool and stakeholder engagement which are collated centrally into Route Strategies. These documents, which are still being collated from the information gathered, will set out the areas that we will put forward for possible consideration.

Priorities will have been identified from the data collected. We know that this is a location noted for future investigation.

We will inform you when the route strategies are published.

Details of these strategies including timeline for publication are here <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/our-route-strategies/>

4. Is there an opportunity under either RIS2 (2020-25) or RIS3 (2025-30) to consider feasibility options/pipeline study to address the issues at this junction to enable it to be developed as a pipeline improvement scheme either within RIS3 (2025-30) or RIS4 (2030-35)?

The RIS 3 Pipeline studies have already been prioritised and we are unable to add further schemes.

Schemes and studies for RIS3 and beyond, including any possible pipeline studies, are selected by DfT from information provided in the 17 route strategies submitted nationally. We work closely with DfT but cannot guarantee which schemes are selected.

If your office would like any further information, please contact our Route Manager Greg Stone, who will be pleased to respond. He can be contacted by email at greg.stone@nationalhighways.co.uk by telephone on 07540101047 Alternatively, our correspondence address is Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4LZ.

Yours sincerely



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