



Department  
for Transport

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
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From the Parliamentary  
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30<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear *Michael,*

### **Improvements to M3/A322 Lightwater Junction (M3 Junction 3)**

It was a pleasure to meet you on 25 April to update you on the work that National Highways is doing to alleviate congestion at the Lightwater Junction of the M3 and A322.

Congestion at the junction is caused by a number of factors, but mostly by a combination of traffic control signals on the circulatory of the junction itself, and signals on the north-western section of the A322 towards Bagshot. The signals on the A322 are required to provide access to local roads, but due to the proximity of those signals with the motorway junction, traffic inevitably queues back onto the junction itself – particularly at peak times.

National Highways has conducted a range of validation exercises and works to optimise the signalisation, working closely with Surrey County Council, and these have shown positive, albeit modest, improvement.

We discussed the possibility of a long-term solution to congestion at the junction. To support National Highways' understanding of the feasibility of more substantial improvement works, it has commenced a 'Stage 0' study. This is a pre-project strategic shaping, investigation and assessment of the viability of a potential transport scheme to tackle the problem. The study's output will be a range of potential options to assess in more detail. National Highways has confirmed they anticipate this work will be completed in Autumn 2023. The exercise will conclude in the production of a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) looking at the cost and viability of any major improvements to the junction. Any potential scheme the study identifies would be delivered as part of a future road investment strategy (RIS) beyond 2025. At this point, any potential future scheme is uncommitted and unfunded, and funding beyond early-stage development would need to be sought as part of the usual RIS process.

I would encourage you and Surrey County Council to continue to work closely with National Highways as it progresses its options and study work, and I welcome the offer of support in developing the evidence for a possible future scheme.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Holden', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**RICHARD HOLDEN MP**

**MINISTER FOR ROADS AND LOCAL TRANSPORT**

P.S. Thank you for bringing your excellent District and County Councillors to raise this issue with me. I hope this news of progress towards a DOBC will be welcome. Richard