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From the Secretary of State
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Thank you for your letter of 8 August 2017 about the upgrade to the A27 at Worthing and Lancing following our meeting on 28 November 2016. I welcome your continued leadership to bring together the many views for this important road scheme.


As you will be aware, the Government set Highways England a portfolio of projects in the Road Investment Strategy (RIS). In 2014, the A27 Corridor Feasibility Study provided evidence in terms of options, their deliverability and value for money. It was concluded that the budget for the Worthing and Lancing improvement would be in the range of £50m to £100m. Highways England has been developing a solution that can be delivered within this budget and meets its objectives.

However, I note that the RIS states that the "...extent and scale of the improvements, including the option of full dualling, are to be agreed in consultation with West Sussex County Council and the public." From your feedback, it would appear that the current scheme does not have the support of the local council, business and community, as they want a better scheme in their area.

I recognise the concerns that you outline against the affordability constraints as alternative options including grade separation would be outside the existing budget range available for this RIS period. It should be noted that if alternatives are considered in detail, this would be for a future RIS period and will have to compete against other scheme priorities at that time.

I understand that Highways England are aiming to announce the preferred route for this scheme in late 2017 or early 2018. Prior to this, I will instruct Highways England to provide me with a review of the viable alternative options considered as part of the Feasibility Study in 2014, including a grade separation option. I trust that this will give a full perspective of the alternatives in terms of the timing, funding and environmental factors.

Once again, thank you for your letter and for bringing to my attention your concerns and the concerns of your constituents. I understand that the consultation has been well attended and I look forward to reviewing the outcomes in the near future.

Will be right


Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT