



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Kent County Council
Schemes Planning and Delivery
Javelin Way
Henwood Industrial Estate
Ashford
Kent, TN24 8AD

Sent by email only.

Reference No. HW33169

14 September 2020

Dear Highways Team

Re: A2/A251 consultation

I'm writing to respond to the consultation on planned changes to the junction between the A2 and A251 in my constituency.

Please accept this letter as my response to the consultation.

I'm delighted that Kent County Council are looking to make improvements to this junction. I note that £300,000 from KCC's Highway Innovation Fund is being used to fund the planned improvements works, which is appreciated.

Upgrades to this junction are clearly necessary, and I support KCC's overall objective to improve the flow of traffic at this well-know bottleneck.

I appreciate that the main factor for upgrade work is the volume of traffic using the A251, and the potential hazard caused by cars and lorries having to queue on the M2 slip roads because of traffic on the A251. However a scheme of this size and cost should not miss the opportunity to make broader improvements to the highway and surrounding area.

I have been contacted by a number of constituents with concerns that the current proposals are too "vehicle heavy" in nature, and that not enough thought has been given to other movements at the junction – particularly people who walk or cycle. I know these are concerns shared by the Faversham Society in their submission to this consultation.

As you know, the Government is determined to use this moment as we rebuild from coronavirus to promote healthier and greener forms of transport. A lot of good work is being done locally to encourage this, including the introduction of the trial 20mph zone in Faversham. I hope you will keep this objective in mind as proposals for improving this junction are considered in more detail.

More broadly, I have a number of concerns about the safety of the A2 through Faversham and Ospringe. Concerns about speeding and excessive use by HGVs remain a problem for many constituents.

As you know, I'm also extremely concerned about the lack of a ground-level crossing on the A2 by the Abbey School. With more homes being built on the south side of the A2, and plans to expand the school in the pipeline, the need for improved crossing

facilities along this stretch of the road is greater than ever. I hope KCC will also provide resources to help address these problems, as well as looking to improve the junction between the A2 and A251.

If you would like any more information, or if it would be helpful to discuss any of the points in my submission, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

All best wishes.

Helen Whately MP

Member of Parliament for Faversham and Mid Kent