



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
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SW1P 4DR

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Our Ref: ZA2465

Sean Patrick,

A1 in Northumberland

As you will no doubt be aware, the programme of dualling and improvement works for the A1 north of Ellingham continues apace.

The Highways England Team keep me well informed of progress and recently held a series of roadshows throughout my constituency and beyond, in order to explain the various route options to the public and to invite suggestions and comments.

One thing made clear to me by Highways England, is that they wanted to gather local knowledge of pressure points and dangerous areas, as accident statistics do not tell the full picture –particularly with regard to ‘near misses’. That being the case, I encouraged my constituents to attend the roadshows, and use the various feedback mechanisms to inform the team of their concerns and their knowledge of the dangerous parts of the road.

The one stretch that was repeatedly raised with me, and with the Highways England team, and which I had myself raised with Nanette Hoyle prior to the roadshows, is known as Mousen Bends. It is the most dangerous part of the A1 north of Morpeth and sadly sees a number of fatalities as well as serious accidents and near misses. Almost every piece of feedback from constituents about the improvement works cited Mousen Bends as the priority area.

I understand from the A1 in Northumberland team that the present scheme and the scope announced in the Government’s Road Investment Strategy 2014, was limited to the dualling works and junction modifications, for which Mousen Bends is not a suitable candidate.

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Improving other sections of the road whilst leaving the single most dangerous stretch untouched is understandably a cause of concern for me and for my constituents.

I would be very grateful indeed if you would be able to consider including safety improvement works at Mousen Bends in the scope of the existing scheme, or if you would consider making additional capital available for these vital improvement works.

Yours sincerely
Annal Tani
