

The Right Honourable Chris Grayling MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Councillor Matthew Barber
Leader of the Council
matthew.barber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
Tel: 01235 422082
Mobile: 07816 481452

135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park,
Milton, Abingdon OX14 4SB

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Dear Secretary of State,

Public engagement on the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway

I am writing with reference to the proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway and the recent publication of the proposed timeline shared with the Council.

We welcome much of the proposal, including the key question “**How can we work collaboratively in the most mutually supportive manner possible**”.

Once the corridor has been chosen we are satisfied with the proposed level of public and stakeholder engagement set out. What the proposed strategy and timeframe fails to do is allow similar engagement in the decision process of the corridor.

The lack of proposed public facing decision making and consultation on the proposed corridor is of great concern to residents in the Vale of White Horse and neighbouring districts. It can be argued the route of the corridor itself will have the greatest impact on the largest number of people, therefore it is right and reasonable to consult on this decision. There are also individuals and bodies, within the Vale and beyond, who do not believe the expressway even necessary. It is in the interests of the Government to engage with all those, supportive or otherwise, at the earliest stage.

I would ask you to require Highways England to allow more public engagement in the decision-making process for the corridor, not just the route, to ensure all impacts have been considered and reasons behind decisions are made openly and publicly.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Barber
Leader Vale of White Horse District Council