

Lee Waters MS
Deputy Minister for Climate Change
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
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(by email)

25th June 2021

Subject: Cancelled Road investment in Wales

Dear Mr Waters,

I am writing regarding the announcement you made to the Senedd earlier this week freezing all new road building projects in Wales on the grounds that the action is driven by a desire to tackle climate change.

The RHA (Road Haulage Association) believes the approach being taken by the Welsh Government is badly misjudged on economic, social and climate change grounds. We believe the approach is incoherent, unsustainable and will damage business, jobs and mobility in Wales while failing to address climate change.

We believe the Welsh government should continue the currently suspended work on the Deeside "Red Route", the Llandeilo bypass, and a third Anglesey crossing. In addition, the Welsh Government needs to reopen its consideration of the M4 bypass which we see as a critical and immediate infrastructure need.

Roads are a good thing, they facilitate access to works for people, encourage businesses to thrive and give people & businesses opportunities they would not otherwise have. Failing to improve roads to reduce congestion increases carbon emissions, increases air quality impacts and makes the Welsh economy less productive and competitive. Inadequate infrastructure will choke off jobs and businesses in Wales permanently.

We were disappointed to see that there is no evidence of any consideration of the impacts on road users and consumers. Road users are the people and businesses of Wales that depend upon the road system for their personal and business mobility. The efficient and cost-effective movement of goods demanded by consumers is fundamental to the economy of Wales. Roads are, and will remain, the viable means of realising this.

The anti-road approach to addressing climate change is badly out of date because road-based mobility is moving to net zero as we transition to new vehicles. It is incoherent to stifle

Mobility, add to congestion and reduce business productivity in Wales to achieve targets that are going to be met by other measures.

While we object to your current plans, we do see the case for considering the transport needs of the people & businesses of Wales through an external panel. We would be happy to participate in such a panel to bring the perspective of our members and their customers in the haulage, van and coach sectors.

We look forward to receiving the terms of reference for the proposed panel which should encompass the full infrastructure needs of Wales, including the need for improved connectivity by road. We also trust that the composition of the panel will represent the wider community, including businesses (especially SME businesses) who depend upon the road network for their connectivity.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,



Rhys Williams

Regional Operations Manager - Wales

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