



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1421
Ein cyf/Our ref LW/00554/24

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee

11 April 2024

Dear Jack

Thank you for your letter of 19 March providing details of Petition P-06-1421 Hold a public poll on whether to build the M4 Relief Road, then implement the result immediately.

The Welsh Ministers have been clear that the decision has been made on the M4 Relief Road. Following Mark Drakeford MS, the previous First Minister's decision not to proceed with the M4 Relief Road, the [South East Wales Transport Commission](#) (SEWTC) was established to consider the problems, opportunities, challenges and objectives for tackling congestion on the M4 in South East Wales and make recommendations to the Welsh Government on solutions. The Commission's 58 recommendations were endorsed by the Welsh Government in January 2021. The report set out a plan for a modern public transport system for Newport, which will ease congestion around the M4 and improve services for residents of the city.

On 24 March 2021, we announced the appointment of Simon Gibson CBE as the Chair of the Burns Delivery Board, with Dr Lynn Sloman MBE as Vice Chair. Together they oversee a dedicated Unit in Transport for Wales that are pressing ahead to deliver on the recommendations.

This team has made good progress on development of the South Wales Mainline and new stations on it, as well as regional and local measures such as secure cycle storage, free bus trials and improving regionally important active travel and bus infrastructure.

It is notable that the Union Connectivity Review led by Sir Peter Hendy also recognised the need to improve non-devolved rail provision in south Wales, and the Delivery Unit secured £2.7m of UK Government funding to take forward the Business Case.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

We continue to work with all partners to deliver improvements to transport in South East Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Ken', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke above the letters.

Ken Skates AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport