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for Transport

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Our Ref: 224479

Barbara Jewell

DATE: 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear Barbara Jewell

### **Oxford to Cambridge expressway**

Thank you for your email of 16 April 2018 to the Secretary of State for Transport regarding your concern over the potential impact of the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway on Otmoor. As you will appreciate, Ministers receive large volumes of correspondence from members of the public and are unable to answer each personally. Therefore, I have been asked to reply.

At the Autumn Budget of 2017, the Chancellor committed to delivering the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway missing link between the M40 at Oxford and the M1 at Milton Keynes. The corridor announcement for the missing link and routes around Oxford will be made in summer 2018 and following this, further work including a public consultation will inform a decision on the route alignment within the selected corridor. Environmental designations will be taken into account in corridor and route selection processes. In conjunction with East-West rail, the scheme will help deliver significant benefits across the Cambridge, Milton Keynes, Oxford corridor including enabling the delivery of housing and employment.

No decision on the corridor of the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway has been made. Three potential broad corridors are being examined: corridor A, the southernmost option, corridor B, the central option and corridor C the northernmost option. Both Highways England and the Department for Transport are working together to examine these options and are engaging with local stakeholders on a regular basis. The National Infrastructure Commission findings are being considered and will feed into this work.

I have provided links to the most recent report on the strategic study and the presentation from the recent Stakeholder Reference Group, which you may find useful in providing you with more details on the potential corridor options along with reasoning behind the study.

**Stage 3 Report**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/571353/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway-strategic-study-stage-3-report.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/571353/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway-strategic-study-stage-3-report.pdf)

**Stakeholder Reference Group presentation – October 2017**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/657244/A1-east-of-england-stakeholder-presentation-oct-2017.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/657244/A1-east-of-england-stakeholder-presentation-oct-2017.pdf)

I hope this sets out the current position with regard to this proposed scheme.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Shuster