



East of England

All Party Parliamentary Group

Co-Chairs: Jess Asato MP and Andrew Pakes MP

Vice-Chairs: Blake Stephenson MP & Marie Goldman MP

19th September 2024

Dear Secretary of State

Urgent need for Government commitment to Ely and Haughley junction improvements

Government has made delivering economic growth across the UK one of its central missions. To achieve this, it is essential that goods can be moved across the country as efficiently and sustainably as possible.

By unlocking 2,900 extra freight services to and from the Port of Felixstowe every year, improvements to Ely and Haughley rail junctions will be pivotal to Great British Railways meeting ambitious targets for national rail freight growth. They will also have transformational benefits for passengers.

In October 2023, the previous government confirmed funding would be made available to deliver the Ely and Haughley junction improvements. We, as a collective of regional MPs, Peers, sub-national transport bodies, and other public and private sector stakeholders, remain steadfast in recognising the importance of these schemes.

We therefore ask that when the Department reviews previously committed infrastructure schemes, the new government prioritises investment in Ely and Haughley junction improvements. This includes the early release of required funding to Network Rail/ Great British Railways, so that detailed planning for their delivery can commence.

In your first address to DfT following the General Election, you set your strategic priorities for transport. Upgrading Ely and Haughley directly contributes to these priorities:

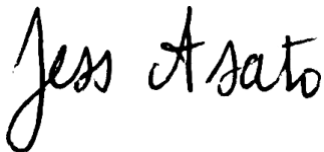
- **Improving the performance on the railways:** By increasing capacity and reducing bottlenecks, and stimulating 277,000 extra rail passenger journeys per year. The scheme has a remarkably high benefit-cost ratio, returning £4.89 of benefits for every £1 invested.

- **Transforming infrastructure to work for the whole country:** The new freight services will primarily serve freight terminals in the Midlands, North and Scotland, and reduce congestion by 5.6 million hours per year (Ely is referenced in the strategies of both Transport for the North and Midlands Connect)
- **Delivering greener transport:** By supporting modal shift to rail, Ely will remove the need for 98,000 HGV journeys every year, reducing carbon emissions by 1.7m tonnes of CO2 over 60 years.

We are delighted to share with you an updated version of England’s Economic Heartland and Transport East’s *Keeping Trade on Track* document, setting out the case for upgrading Ely and Haughley junctions. It highlights the unprecedented levels of cross-party, cross-sector, cross-business and cross-regional support for getting on and delivering these projects.

We believe it is in the economic interest of the UK for the funding required to progress Ely and Haughley to be included within the Budget later this autumn and are therefore copying this letter to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. As regional partners, we take ‘collective responsibility’ in working with Government and its agencies to ensure the opportunities from investment in Ely and Haughley are fully maximised for the benefit of the UK.

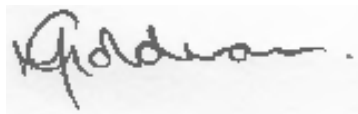
Yours sincerely



Jess Asato MP
Co-chair, East of England APPG



Andrew Pakes MP
Co-chair, East of England APPG



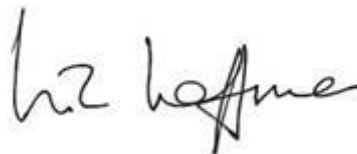
Marie Goldman MP
Vice Chair, East of England APPG



Blake Stephenson MP
Vice Chair, East of England APPG



Will Quince
Chair, Transport East



Cllr Liz Leffman
Chair, England’s Economic Heartland

**Cllr Graham Butland Chair
of the East of England LGA and
Leader of Braintree District Council**

**Dr Nik Johnson,
Mayor of Cambridgeshire and
Peterborough**

Pam Cox, MP for Colchester

**Patrick Spencer MP for Central Suffolk and
North Ipswich**

James Wild MP for North West Norfolk

George Freeman MP for Mid Norfolk

Terry Jermy MP for South West Norfolk

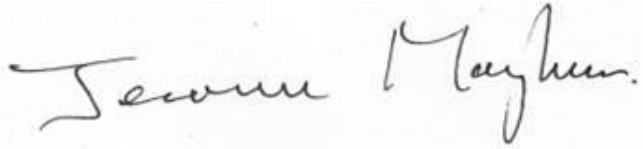
**Rt Hon Richard Holden MP for Basildon &
Billericay**

James Crtlidge, MP for South Suffolk

**Jack Abbott, MP for Ipswich &
East of England Mission Champion**



Alice Macdonald, MP for Norwich North



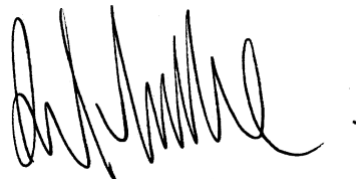
Jerome Mayhew, MP for Broadland and Fakenham



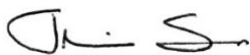
Steff Aquarone, MP for North Norfolk



Charlotte Horobin, Chair, Chambers East



Richard Tunnicliffe, Diorector, CBI East



Jackie Sadek, Chair, UK Innovation Corridor

Plus the following who provided email confirmation of their support

- **Clive Lewis MP for Norwich South**
- **Rt Hon Lord Michael Naseby**
- **Biplab Rakshi, Chair of Institute of Directors East of England**

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