Department for Transport

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
**Justin Madders MP**

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Cllr Paul Peacock (Labour)
Leader of Newark and Sherwood District Council
Castle House,
Great North Road,
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26 November 2026

Dear Paul,

**Variation to the Third Road Investment Strategy**

I am writing further to the letter of 23 July 2026 about the proposed variation to the third Road Investment Strategy (RIS3), to update you on the outcome of the consultation, which closed on 14 September 2026.

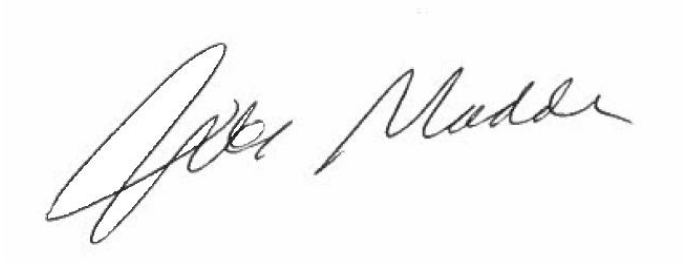
As set out in the previous letter, we are supporting the Government's commitment to strengthening our country's defence through savings in the roads programme. This has meant making difficult choices about RIS3 investment. We have carefully considered the consultation responses, input from National Highways, and supporting evidence relating to a wide range of factors such as safety, housing, economic growth, value for money, environment, deliverability and investment considerations.

Having assessed these considerations, the Secretary of State has determined that, with the other pressures Government is now under, sadly the A46 Newark Bypass and A38 Derby Junctions schemes are no longer affordable. This is not a decision we have taken lightly, but it reflects the difficult choices needed to prioritise investment in defence now and in the longer-term. I recognise that this outcome will be

disappointing for you and your residents supporting the A46 Newark Bypass Scheme.

No10 North will continue working with Mayor Claire Ward to support investment in the region. I have asked my officials to work with No10 North, National Highways and the East Midlands Combined County Authority to explore focused corridor studies on the parts of the A46 at Newark and the A38 at Derby, looking at the local needs and potential solutions for improvements in the future.

Yours sincerely,



**JUSTIN MADDERS MP**

**MINISTER FOR ROADS**